SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

HIKARU NAKAMURA

...SHE IS THE MOTHER OF THE ONE AND ONLY...

BUT AT THE SAME TIME...

...AS WARM AND NURTURING AS THE SUN.

THE HOLY MOTHER'S LOVE SHINES DOWN UPON ALL LIVING THINGS...

YOU BOUGHT... A BED FOR ME...?

...THE ULTIMATE ONLY CHILD.

OH, IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES WHEN IT'S NOT HAPPENING TO *YOU*...

I BET SHE'S ALREADY GOT SNACKS AND A TOOTHBRUSH FOR YOU, TOO.

BEEDLE-DEEDLE-DOO

Ha ha ha...

HMM?

HUH?!

W-WAIT, I NEVER SAID I WAS...

HUH? WHEN? NEW YEAR'S?

SO I CAN COME BACK HOME?

I DOUBT IT. MINE IS MUCH TOO COOL AND RESERVED ...

AHA! WHAT IF THAT CALL'S FROM *YOUR* MOM?!

FWIP

WHAT? IT REALLY IS HER...

Maybe she bought you a bed, too!

CLIK...

WHY WOULD SHE BUY THAT BEFORE CHECKING WITH ME?!

SHE'S ALREADY BOUGHT THE BED, SO I'D SAY SHE HAS YOU *IN* CHECK.

...*ARGH!* I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO GO HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR!!

WHEN ROYALTY WANTS TO PUT YOU IN CHECK, IT'S RUTHLESS...

WHAT? A REAL PALACE?

HUH?

WHA...? WHY WOULD YOU BUY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

LOOK, I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING THIS UP, BUT THINGS LIKE THAT ARE WHY THE SHAKYA CLAN WAS WIPED OUT. I MEAN, NOT DIRECTLY, BUT...

KIYOSHI

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 44

Nothing Like a Mother's Love!

I'M SORRY, I MUST HAVE MISHEARD THAT.

MAIL ORDER LIFE IN THE HEAVENS

The Best Oil Heaters

To get you through the winter.

YOU BOUGHT ME A PALACE... FOR THE HOLIDAYS ...?

...HE MADE SURE TO MENTION THAT HE GAVE US THE FARE FOR THE RETURN TRIP...

IN THE LETTERS GABRIEL SENT TO BOTH OF THEM WITH HIS YEAR-END *OSEIBO* GIFTS...

OSEIBO
GABRIEL
OSEIBO
GABRIEL

AND THE MOST DEVIOUS PART OF ALL IS THAT HE'S NOT TECHNICALLY LYING...

FOR AN ANGEL, HE'S SIMPLY DEMONIC!!

IN THE BATTLE OF INFOR-MATION, HE FENCED US IN FROM THE OUTSIDE...

I CAN FEEL MY INNER MARA TEMPTING ME...

I ALWAYS FEAR I'LL FIND SOME OTHER USE FOR IT AT THE END OF THE MONTH...

TRIP FARE

I'M SO SORRY FOR EVERYTHING GABRIEL'S PUT YOU THROUGH...

WELL...IF SHE'S CONSTRUCTED A PALACE FOR ME, I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO GO...

TIME TO STICK TO MY RESOLVE AND TAKE THE TRIP HOME THIS YEAR.

SIGH...

OH, IT'S FINE. BESIDES, I CAN'T KEEP THAT TRIP FARE TUCKED AWAY IN THE CABINET FOREVER.

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T WANT GABRIEL POKING INTO YOUR AFFAIRS...

WAIT, WHAT...? YOU'RE ACTUALLY... GOING?

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF GOING HOME ITSELF.

YES, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

Sorry, I forgot you muted the TV for me.

Oh!

I WAS HOPING TO SPEND MORE TIME HERE. LIKE A MILLENNIUM...

I MEAN, WE'VE ONLY BEEN DOWN A FEW YEARS...

AND THEN *THAT* MIGHT GET TURNED INTO AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY...

BUT I GUARANTEE THAT IF WE GO BACK THEY'LL HOLD A BIG FESTIVAL...

LISTEN, THEY'RE RUNNING SHORT ON WINE...

YES! MY TIME HAS COME!

SWISH

Heh heh... Just call me the Messiah!

I GET IT. I STILL REMEMBER MY REBELLIOUS YEARS... IT'S ALMOST TOO EMBARRASSING TO TALK ABOUT.

BUT I JUST CAN'T RUIN MOM'S GOOD MOOD...

IT GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO TURN THE WATER INTO WINE AT A FRIEND'S WEDDING...

Thinking about it makes my heart hurt...

OH? YOU HAD A REBELLIOUS PHASE, TOO?

Hmmm

What can we do?

We're almost out of wine!

I WAS JUST *ABOUT* TO DO A MIRACLE!

WHAT...? I...

N-NO! S-STOP!

DON'T...

She's pretty!

Oh? That's your mom?

DON'T! STOP CALLING YOURSELF "MOTHER" IN FRONT OF EVERYONE...

WHAT? MOTHER'S GOING TO LET THEM KNOW YOU CAN...

YOU WERE? OKAY, MOTHER WILL TELL EVERYONE IT'S FINE...

OH, I DON'T KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR REBELLIOUS PHASE WAS OVERFLOWING WITH AGAPE.

You're Fine!

I WAS JUST SO ASHAMED...TO SAY "MOM" IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS!!

WHAT HAVE I...

...TO DO WITH THEE, WOMAN?!

BUDDHA
THE WORST THING ABOUT WINTER FOR HIM IS A CHILLY BATHROOM. WANTS A HEATED TOILET SEAT, BUT IT COSTS A LOT, SO HE HAS TO MAKE DO.

AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY COULD HAVE REACHED OUT ABOUT THIS EARLIER!

IT'S... SO HEAVY ...

THE NEXT EVENING, AT HANEDA AIRPORT...

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: ASHOKA JESUS' SHIRT: CANA

JESUS
THE WORST THING ABOUT WINTER FOR HIM IS HOW EARLY THE SUN GOES DOWN. IT'S LONELY WHEN THINGS GET DARK BY FIVE O'CLOCK.

TOKYO BANANA

THOSE LINES AT TOKYO STATION'S UNDER-GROUND MALL WERE ROUGH...

WE EVEN WENT TO KAMAKURA TO BUY SOME HATO SABLÉ COOKIES.

IT TOOK US AN ENTIRE DAY TO BUY ALL THE TRAVEL SOUVENIRS THEY ASKED FOR!

S-SORRY, BUDDHA...

I JUST CHECKED, AND IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY PICKING ITEMS WE COULD FIND AT THE AIRPORT...

SLUMP

WAIT... THEY SELL ALL OF THEM AT THE AIRPORT, TOO?!!!

I'M SORRY! I'LL MAKE SURE ALL OF MY ANGELS GET THE MESSAGE!!

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE, MAKE SURE WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE FIRST!!

NO... BE STRONG, BUDDHA!!

THE HOLY MOTHER'S LOVE IS SHINING ENTIRELY ON KIYOSHI RIGHT NOW?!

...FROM THE OTHER KIYOSHI FANS SHE MEETS AT HIS CONCERTS...

APPARENTLY SHE'S BEEN GETTING ALL OF HER INFOR-MATION...

You should buy some, Mary-san!

They're to die for!

Oh, my...

KIYOSHI

MOTHER REALLY LIKES COMING DOWN TO EARTH, ACTUALLY.

BUT HOW DOES MARY-SAN KNOW ABOUT ALL THE FASHIONABLE SWEETS DOWN HERE, ANYWAY?

SHE'S BEEN VISITING JAPAN A LOT RECENTLY.

WELL, GIVEN YOUR LINE OF WORK, A GRANDCHILD'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN GIVE HER...

TICKET WINDOW

BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT A COMMENT LIKE THAT...

SHE SAYS HE'S CUTE, LIKE A GRAND-SON.

SO SHE'S LEARNED HOW TO KEEP HERSELF FROM CRYING LATELY.

YES, BUT SHE'S VERY EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT IT.

The most moving story of the year... coming soon...

PLAYING LATE BLOOM

EVEN THE PREVIEWS AT THE MOVIE THEATER, RIGHT?

THAT'S TRUE. AND SHE'LL CRY AT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

I SUPPOSE SHE'S JUST GOT AN ABUNDANCE OF LOVE, RIGHT?

She's been very good to me, too...

OH, SO *THAT'S* HOW THOSE MIRACLES WORK.

NNG...?

FSHH!

...ONE OF THE MARY STATUES IN THE MORTAL WORLD STARTS TO CRY INSTEAD.

BUT EACH TIME SHE TRIES TO HOLD BACK HER TEARS ...

SHE SAID THAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE TAKES HER ALLERGY MEDICATION...

SO ALLERGY TEARS COUNT, TOO?

BUT I'VE HEARD OF STATUES OF THE VIRGIN MARY CRYING MIRACULOUSLY FOR LIKE, SIX MONTHS AT A TIME...

MY MOM WAS STUNNED TO HEAR ABOUT THAT.

AND A VIRGIN MOTHER...

YOU KNOW. SHE'S A HOLY WOMAN, SO...

IS THAT FROM SOME-THING PAINFUL ...?

IN THAT CASE, WHAT ABOUT THE MARY STATUES THAT CRY BLOODY TEARS?

...AND ON THE EXPRESS FROM MAIHAMA...

NO... ACTUALLY, SHE WAS COMING BACK FROM A KIYOSHI CONCERT...

I WONDER IF SHE SAW SOME WAR UNFOLDING ON EARTH-

It looks really bad...

OH NO... WHAT TRAGEDY DID SHE WITNESS?!

OH, THAT... THAT'S WHEN SOMETHING DOWN ON EARTH IS CAUSING HER ANGUISH...

REPENT YOUR SINFUL WAYS, COUPLES!!

REPENT...

...SO THE TRUTH IS, SHE'S REALLY SENSITIVE ABOUT HAVING NO ROMANTIC EXPERIENCE...

AND SHE'S BEEN A HOLY WOMAN EVER SINCE...

SEE... MOM HAD ME BY VIRGIN BIRTH BEFORE SHE WAS MARRIED...

IF ONLY HER FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH JOSEPH-SAN HAD BEEN RUNNING INTO HIM AROUND A CORNER WITH A PIECE OF TOAST IN HER MOUTH.

AND WELL, SHE'S REALLY FASCINATED BY THE IDEA OF CAMPUS LIFE RIGHT NOW...

...IS IT BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE ARE GOING ON VACATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

IT'S REALLY CROWDED AROUND HERE, THOUGH...

...WELL, NOW IT MAKES SENSE WHY SHE NEVER CONNECTED WITH MY MOTHER...

IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT THE TRIP DOWN TO EARTH WILL BE PACKED.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THIS IS A TRIP UP TO THE HEAVENS.

I HOPE IT'S NOT BOOKED UP.

WE STILL HAVE TO BUY THE TICKETS, RIGHT?

YIKES, THIS IS ONLY BARELY ENOUGH TO COVER THE COST.

THE TICKET WINDOW'S OVER THERE.

OOH... I REALLY HOPE WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY GODS OUT ON THEIR OWN BUSINESS!

*ABOUT $800

...SO ALMOST NONE OF THE GODS ARE MAKING THE TRIP BACK TO THE HEAVENS...

PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE WISHING FOR A NEW YEAR OF HAPPINESS AND GOOD FORTUNE...

I WAS WORRIED WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO NEW YEAR'S DAY WITHOUT DIPPING INTO THIS 80,000...

AS A MATTER OF FACT,

UM, SIR...

WHEN YOU SUBTRACT THE COST OF THE FARE, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!

YES, SIR.

WE'LL NEED TICKETS TO THE HEAVENS FOR TWO GODS.

STOP SAYING THAT! IT MAKES MY STOMACH HURT!

WHAT?

¥80,000 ISN'T GOING TO COVER THE COST.

TICKET WINDOW

THE FURTHER OUT THE FLIGHT DATE, THE CHEAPER THE COST WILL BE.

¥80,000 WOULD BE THE PRICE IF YOU PURCHASED THEM HALF A YEAR AGO.

SIR, THESE ARE SAME-DAY PRICES.

BUT... WE'RE NOT TAKING FIRST CLASS.

IT'S JUST COACH.

*ABOUT ¥1,820

ACTUALLY, YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS SORT OF SYSTEM, SHOULDN'T YOU, JESUS-SAMA?

BUT... BUT HOW SHOULD WE KNOW THE INS AND OUTS OF-

NO, SIR, IT'S A COMMON EARTHLY CUSTOM.

...YOU WIND UP IN PURGATORY, JUST A TIER BELOW HEAVEN, RIGHT?

...BUT IF YOU REFORM YOUR WAYS JUST BEFORE DEATH...

IF YOU GET BAPTIZED THE DAY YOU'RE BORN, YOU'LL GO RIGHT TO HEAVEN...

WH...WHAT'S THIS ANGEL'S DEAL...?

OF COURSE, *EVERYTHING SEEMS HARSH* WHEN YOU CODIFY IT IN A SYSTEM OF RULES...

F6 HEAVENL

BUT PAYING THE SAME DAY AS THE FLIGHT WILL COST YOU ¥182,000* INSTEAD...

WINDOW

WHAT?! IS THAT SOMETHING UNIQUE TO THE HEAVENLY LINE?!

?!

NEXT GUEST, PLEASE.

EXCUSE ME, IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP US WITH-

HEAVENS TO THE HEAVENS

OH, NO! WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR ENOUGH MONEY...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE THAT MUCH AT THE BANK, EITHER!

AND JUST SO WE'RE NOT MISTAKEN HERE...

OH...

MY BOSS IS *ZEUS*. DON'T GO THINKING I'M ONE OF YOURS.

I'M *CUPID*, NOT AN ANGEL...

WE'VE GOT A FIRST CLASS SEAT OPEN, SO I'LL GIVE YOU AN UPGRADE.

OH! WELCOME BACK, NARCISSUS-SAN.

Oh, really?

HE GOT REALLY COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN!!!

THAT WAS MY FAULT, THOUGH...

WELL, ZEUS-SAN'S PEOPLE TEND TO ACT MORE LIKE HUMANS IN GENERAL.

I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WERE COMPETING FACTIONS IN THE HEAVENS, TOO...

WELL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IT'S ALREADY FOUR O'CLOCK, WE CAN'T GET THE MONEY WIRED TO US IN TIME.

IT NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME TO TRY PULLING STRINGS WITH A PUBLIC SERVICE!

C-CALM DOWN! LOOK, LET'S TRY CALLING THE HEAVENS FIRST!

ARGH! I KNEW TRAVELING BACK HOME WITH SUCH LITTLE NOTICE WASN'T GOING TO WORK!

ABSOLUTELY NOT. I STILL HAVEN'T PAID THIS MONTH'S RENT.

Land-lady

COULD WE RUSH RIGHT BACK... AND ASK TO BORROW MONEY FROM MATSUDA-SAN?

YEAH, BUT IT'S ALREADY FOUR O'CLOCK...

NO, NOT IN THE BANK ACCOUNT, EITHER...

UM, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR OUR TICKETS ...

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

...AH! HELLO, MOM?

IN FACT, SHE'LL PROBABLY TELL ME NOT TO COME HOME...

MY MOTHER HATES BUYING POTENTIAL BARGAINS AT A PREMIUM...

And yet she buys a palace...

She's oddly similar to me in that way...

FLAP FLAP FLAP

H-HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HER...

MOTHER!!

TH-THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING EARLI-

WHAT? THERE'S NO POINT IF WE'RE NOT IN TIME FOR THE MOCHI POUNDING?!

THERE IS AN ACCOUNT UNDER MY NAME!

DAD?!

DO NOT PANIC, MY CHILD.

DO NOT GIVE UP, MY CHILD.

WE HAVING A SAYING FOR THIS.

I DON'T THINK I CAN GET BACK HOME THIS YEAR...

UGH. I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO COME DOWN FOR NOTHING.

PATTERN DOES NOT MATCH.

WITH A FINGER SCANNER, I WON'T NEED TO SEND A CARD FROM UP HERE...

...AND YOU SHALL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN."

"SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR...

DAD, YOU CAN'T JUST SEND THE HOLY GHOST AS A DOVE, YOU HAVE TO COME IN PERSON!

...WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BANKS ON EARTH...?

COME ONE AND ALL...

...AND WITH EACH SMALL AND STEADY PAYMENT, YE SHALL CLIMB THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN.

THUS, YOU SHOULD ESTABLISH A NEW "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SAVINGS ACCOUNT."

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SAVINGS

THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS FOR.

STOP THE WAR!!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SURGERY!!

FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF? I'LL PAY ¥500...

NO, IT'S A DEPOSIT.

IS THIS FOR CHARITY?

THEIR HOLIDAY FEAST THIS YEAR CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF SOUVENIR TREATS FROM TOKYO STATION.

I CAN'T DO THAT!!

It was too much!

YEAR-END AMNUNITY CHARITY FUND

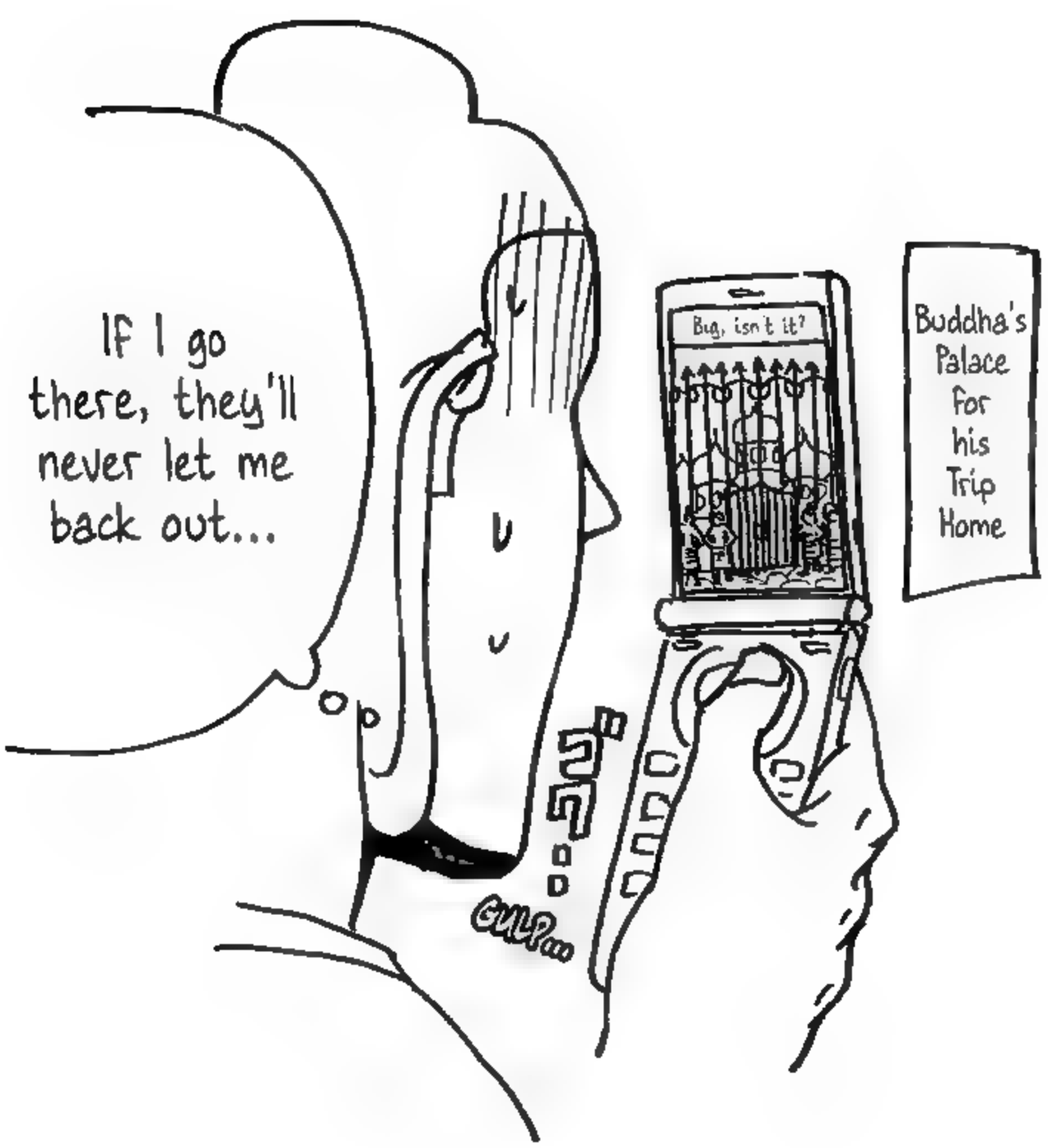
WHY AREN'T YOU USING IT...?

Hmm?

...

30 MINUTES LATER...

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SAVINGS


If I go there, they'll never let me back out...
Big, isn't it?
Buddha's Palace for his Trip Home
GULP...
GULP

CHAPTER 44 TRANSLATION NOTES

Shakya Clan,
The Shakya clan to which Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) was born were held to be a proud and arrogant people by their neighbors, and were eventually destroyed by a rival clan.

***Oseibo*,**
A traditional mid-December gift tradition in Japan, *oseibo* is a formal type of present typically packed into ceremonial boxes and given to those to whom you are indebted, such as relatives, arranged-marriage matchmakers, work superiors, etc. The gift is most often something that will aid the New Year celebration, such as alcohol, ham, sausage, fish, and so on.

What have I to do with thee?,
A quote that is attributed to Jesus in John 2:4, when he performed the miracle of turning water into wine. This was said to be the first of Jesus's miracles. The wedding was in a place called Cana (the name on Jesus's shirt in this chapter) in Galilee.

Ashoka,
The name of the type of tree, *Saraca asoca*, that the Buddha is said to have been born underneath. Ashoka are prized for their beautiful and fragrant flowers. Ashoka is also the name of one of the more famous rulers of pre-modern South Asia, who is said to have converted to Buddhism after reflecting on the toll of his violent military campaigns, and then spread the teachings of the Buddha across the expanse of his new empire across present day India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bengal.

Hato sablé, Hiyoko, Tokyo Banana,
All of the items seen here are types of treats considered local to Tokyo. Hato sablé is a dove-shaped butter cookie sold in Kamakura. Hiyoko pastries are shaped like chicks. Tokyo Banana is a brand of soft banana sponge cakes that resemble Twinkies.

Kiyoshi,
A reference to popular enka (a subgenre of popular songs resembling traditional Japanese music) singer Kiyoshi Hikawa. For being a younger man in the more old-fashioned and traditional enka style, his handsome looks earned him the title of the "Prince of Enka."

Weeping statues,
A widely-reported phenomenon of statues of the Virgin Mary shedding tears, sometimes of blood or oil. When such a statue is sighted it can bring many pilgrims hoping to witness its miraculous power.

Toast in the mouth,
An oft-parodied trope in romantic manga for girls. A typical situation would be a girl running late to school with a piece of toast in her mouth. She bumps into a boy around a blind corner, and when she arrives at school later, he is introduced as a new transfer student. Despite being initially repulsed by him, she eventually falls in love.

Purgatory,
An concept of the afterlife most associated with Catholicism. Purgatory is a place where those who are "imperfectly purified" can be cleansed before they are ready to go into Heaven.

Cupid,
The Roman god of desire and erotic love, often associated with the bow and arrow. Over time, Cupid's iconography was absorbed into Christian art, such that he is typically depicted today as a kind of cherub most active on Valentine's Day as a matchmaker.

Narcissus,
A figure in Greek mythology who was so beautiful that he gazed at his own reflection in the water. The source of the word "narcissism."

***Mochi* pounding,**
Mochi are glutinous rice cakes that are most associated with the new year. The traditional method of making *mochi* is called *mochitsuki*, or "*mochi* pounding." The kneaded rice is placed in a mortar and mashed with a large wooden mallet by one person, while a second person flips the *mochi* and keeps it wet in between strikes. It is done quickly, so rhythm is essential to avoid injury.

Sell all that you have and give to the poor,
A quote attributed to Jesus in an episode recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When a rich man asks Jesus what he can do to enter heaven, Jesus advises him to give away all his wealth. In Luke, this is the source of the famous quote that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME TO PUT THE NEW YEAR'S DECORATIONS AWAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

IN JAPAN, THERE ARE SAID TO BE EIGHT MILLION DIFFERENT GODS...

YOU KNOW, SINCE THERE ARE EIGHT MILLION GODS IN JAPAN...

SEVEN GODS, RIDING IN ONE BOAT...

Sure.

YES, IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER JUST LOOKING AT IT.

You want nori on all your mochi?

I LIKE THOSE SEVEN LUCKY GODS, THOUGH. THEY'RE SO ADORABLE, IT MAKES YOU WANT TO KEEP THEM OUT ALL THE TIME.

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SITAVANA

THUMP

TEP TEP TEP

HAVE A NICE DAY!!

BLUE

JESUS...

ISN'T IT STRANGE?

HA HA! THE FUNNY THING IS, WE NEVER SEEM TO MEET ANY OF THEM.

...I SUPPOSE THEY WOULDN'T MIND IF THERE HAPPEN TO BE TWO MORE IN THEIR MIDST.

JESUS' SHIRT: ISAAC

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

OH, AND THIS IS A LITTLE BONUS FOR YOU!

JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE.

HEYA! I'M DONE INSPECTING THE BATHROOM!

CLICK

OH, THAT'S BECAUSE ...

WHAT? NO WAY! HE WAS WEARING SOME KIND OF COMPANY NAME TAG!

THAT MAN WAS THE GOD OF THE TOILET.

He must have given us this free toilet bowl cleaner because he was satisfied with the condition of ours...

BLUELET

ソーヨヴァナ

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 45

Eight Million and Ninety-Nine

OH! HE'S GETTING INTO A CAR! HE DRIVES A DAIHATSU MIRA! IT'S A HATCHBACK!

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WORK AT A TSUTAYA MOVIE RENTAL STORE...

HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS JUST FROM SOME PUBLIC OFFICE!

OH, AND WHAT ABOUT THAT UTILITY GUY WHO CAME AND COUNTED ALL THE TATAMI MAT SEAMS?!

THAT WOULD BE THE GOD OF TATAMI MATS, THEN.

Good. Good.

Good. Good.

THE GODS OF THE STOVE AND THE GOD OF ELECTRIC POWER HAVE BEEN HERE, TOO.

THANKS, JESUS. THAT WAS A REALLY GOOD IDEA...

I MEAN, THAT'S WHY YOU SUGGESTED WE TAKE OUR VACATION IN JAPAN, RIGHT?

...SO THEY'RE BEING CONSIDERATE AND NOT INTRODUCING THEM-SELVES.

THEY MUST KNOW THAT WE'RE HERE ON VACATION ...

I DO APPRECIATE THEIR GENEROSITY.

WELL...TO TELL THE TRUTH...

...IT WASN'T?

YOU RANKED JAPAN ABOVE ANYWHERE ELSE BASED ON THEIR ONLINE MANNERS?!

Wow!

⇧500

Takeshi: Grats on lvl up ^^
Yessir: Yay, thanks
Miyu: Grats ^^ Almost to 50
Takeshi: Your main armor's cool
Yessir: Thanks~

SWISH

I WAS PLAYING A LOT OF *DAEMON HUNTER* ...

...AND I WAS JUST THINKING THAT JAPANESE PLAYERS ARE REALLY NICE AND CHILL, SO...

UM, BUDDHA, ARE YOU PUTTING IN EXTRA TEA LEAVES ON PURPOSE?

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

WELL, AND THEIR TEXT FACES AND EMOJIS ARE SO CUTE...

BUDDHA
NEW YEAR'S RESO-LUTION: TO STICK TO A DIET. HE BOUGHT A BALANCE BALL, AND IS PLANNING HIS OWN BEDROOM EXERCISE ROUTINE.

...BUT THEN I REMEMBERED THAT EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE TINIEST PEBBLE HAS A REASON FOR BEING WHERE IT IS.

PARDON ME. FOR A MOMENT, I LOST SIGHT OF MY ENTIRE REASON FOR BEING HERE...

BHUSH

I'M SORRY, BUDDHA! I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU GO THAT DEEP!!

BUT IN A LARGER SENSE, I WAS DRAWN TO THEIR NATIONAL CHARACTER ...

BLUB BLUB BLUB

ANYWAY, THAT'S JUST ONLINE STUFF...

B-BUDDHA, DON'T CHUG IT ALL WHEN IT'S SO DARK...

GLUGGG

OR WAS THAT MEANT TO BE A SHOCK TO YOUR SYSTEM? SORRY, IS THIS BLOWING YOUR MIND THAT MUCH?!

PLUS, JAPAN HAS *TSUKUMOGAMI*, OR "NINETY-NINE GODS."

...I REMEMBER WORRYING ABOUT WHAT TO DO FOR GIFTS WHEN WE WERE PREPARING TO COME DOWN.

BUT THINKING BACK ON IT NOW...

JESUS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: TO SEE A BASEBALL GAME AT NIGHT. IT'S NOT CLEAR IF HE KNOWS ALL THE RULES YET.

REALLY? SO THAT MEANS THERE ARE EVEN ***MORE*** OF THEM TO KEEP TRACK OF...

...AND BECOME GODS OF THEIR OWN.

THAT'S WHERE OBJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN WELL CARED FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS ARE INFUSED WITH THEIR OWN SPIRIT...

...IS POSSESSED BY A TSUKUMO-GAMI, TOO!!

I THINK MY LAPTOP ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JESUS?!

AHA! NOW I SEE...

KLINK

ガーン

...OR MAYBE LESS OF A "SOUL" AND MORE OF A "PERSONALITY," ACTUALLY...

IN ALL HONESTY, I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT MY PC HAS A SOUL OF ITS OWN LATELY...

WHAT, REALLY?! I MEAN, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TREATING THAT PC VERY CAREFULLY FOR AGES...

SHE TALKS A LOT, AND LIKES TO COMPLAIN...

...BUT WHEN SHE'S TRYING HER BEST, SHE'LL CHIP AWAY AT HER OWN PACE UNTIL SHE'S DONE...

Hang on! I'm doing it!

End Program

This program is not responding.

To return to Windows and check the status of the program, click Cancel.

If you choose to end the program immediately, you will lose any unsaved data. To end the program now, click End Now.

End Now | Cancel

SHE'S KIND OF STANDOFFISH, BUT SECRETLY SICKLY...

HE IMAGINES HIS ANCIENT LAPTOP HAS A PERSON-ALITY...

A TSUKUMO-GAMI...

I'LL CALL IT TSUKUMON!!

VAIO

...BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND! SHE'S GOT A SOUL OF HER OWN!!

BEFORE, IT JUST SEEMED LIKE IT WAS ALL IN MY HEAD...

WHENEVER BUDDHA GLANCED AT THE SCREEN, THERE WAS ALWAYS AN HOURGLASS LOADING ICON RUNNING ON IT.

SNIFF...

SHWIP

...SO MANY ERROR MESSAGES AND BEEPS ALL THE TIME!

I SUPPOSE THAT'S HOW HE WAS MANAGING THE STRESS OF HEARING ...

KANDATA PROTAG-ONIST OF RYÛNO-SUKE AKUTA-GAWA'S SHORT STORY "THE SPIDER'S THREAD." WON BY THE BUDDHA FROM A CRANE GAME.

UH-OH! KANDATA HAD MORE STUFFING LEAKING FROM HIS NECK?

4 STITCH

4 STITCH

...I'LL LET HIM BUY A NEW ONE...

NEXT TIME HIS PC FREEZES UP...

WHAT IF HE GAINS A SOUL NEXT?

HA HA! NOW KANDATA WILL LOOK CUTE, TOO.

THERE'S A MARK LEFT BEHIND, SO MAYBE I'LL ATTACH A BOW TO HIDE IT...

THAT'S RIGHT. MAYBE IT WAS BUGS...

SURE, I'LL SMACK YOU ON BOTH CHEEKS.

MAKE SURE I WAKE UP, BUDDHA! YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO HIT ME!!

HA HA, IT'LL BE LIKE THE ELVES AND THE SHOE-MAKER...

OH! JESUS, IT'S NEARLY MIDNIGHT!

SWIK

SWIK

MAYBE JUNIOR WILL, TOO.

GOOD NIGHT!

GOOD NIGHT.

I PROMISED TO WRITE UP A REVIEW!

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT!

YOU DON'T WANT TO OVER-SLEEP AND MISS IT.

ISN'T TOMORROW THE SERIES FINALE FOR THIS YEAR'S *KAMEN RIDER?*

THEN GO AND PULL OUT THE FUTONS.

ピク TWITCH

ズー

ZZZZ...

TWITCH
TWITCH
YAAAWN...
AHH, DATA SLEPT SO WELL!
HUP
HUH?
OH, THAT'S STRANGE. I HEAR JESUS-SAMA'S VOICE COMING FROM THE CLOSET...
KANDATA, HELP ME!
THERE'S MORE INSECTI-CIDE IN HERE NOW!
RI-BAND ...?
YOU MEAN THAT RIBBON?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THE SAME SHTICK EVERY NIGHT!
JUST GET THIS INSECTICIDE OFF OF ME!
NEVER MIND, IT'S VERONICA!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO CHOOSE A MORE OLD-FASHIONED WAY OF SAYING THINGS, DON'T YOU?
VERONICA
BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE, DATA RECEIVED THIS DELIGHTFULLY ADORABLE RIBAND!!
OHH, I'M SO SORRY!
THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT DATA'S MISSING STUFFING WAS THE WORK OF BUGS.

DATA'S AT THAT AGE WHERE SOMEONE WANTS TO USE CUTE AND RETRO LANGUAGE FOR EVERYTHING!

OH, PLEASE! CALL IT *RETRO!*

HMM? IF YOU INSIST.

WHAM!!

HEY, JUNIOR! DO YOUR IMPRESSION! DO IT FOR US!

THIS WHOLE "DATA" THING IS WEIRD, TOO...

THAT'S *EXACTLY* LIKE HIM!!

TEE-HEE! IT REALLY IS!!

TEE-HEE-HEE!

AHA HA HA!

AHA!

AHA HA HA! IT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE...

AHEM! AHEM-HEM!

HANG ON, LET ME GET INTO CHARACTER ...

ACTUALLY, I HAVE A NEW ONE...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

CREAK

OH, THIS? NO, IT'S JUST *SWELLING!*

MY WEIGHT'S STILL EXACTLY THE SAME, TRUST ME!!

GLHK! ERK! KOFF GE- HOFF!!

GOFHK!

ERRA- HACK!!

I KNOW THAT BUDDHA-SAMA THINKS OF YOU LIKE A CUTE LITTLE MASCOT...

HUFF...

CHUFF...

URP!

SEE, KANDATA? YOU CAN'T TALK IN FALSETTO ALL THE TIME...

THE CUTE MASCOT'S POSE IS APPARENTLY RATHER TAXING ON THE BODY.

NO! NEVER! I CAN'T BETRAY THE BUDDHA TWICE!!

FWAP

すZZZ

...BUT WHEN YOU RECALL THAT THE MAN INSIDE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A MIDDLE-AGED THIEF...

...THE BARITONE VOICE MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE...

CHIRP CHIRP

NOOOOO!!

I FEEL LIKE I HAD A VERY STRANGE DREAM LAST NIGHT...

The stuffing's leaking out again...

This is the final battle!!

SWEAT

I WAS BUSY LIVE-BLOGGING THE FINALE...

...AND MY COMPUTER JUST FROZE!!

...TO BUY YOU A NEW LAPTOP TODAY?!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME...

GABRIEL-SAN DID SAY WE COULD USE THIS TRAVEL FARE FOR OURSELVES ...

...

Wake up, Tsukumon!!

ARGH, I CAN'T EVEN SHUT DOWN THE PROGRAM!

SAY, JESUS...

TSU...

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT THROWING TSUKUMON AWAY!

C'MON, JUST COME WITH ME!

TSUKUMON JUST WORKS ON HER OWN SCHEDULE, THAT'S ALL...

GATANK GATANK

TSUKUMON CAN STILL WORK!!

Recycling Shop

ROUND 'N' ROUND

EVERYTHING THEY SELL HERE WAS PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY SOMEONE ELSE.

...AND LEAVE TSUKUMON BEHIND FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

...THEN YOU CAN FIND A NEW PC HERE...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO JUST THROW TSUKUMON AWAY...

¥750

¥380

SUPER CHEAP

SUPER CHEAP

RECYCLING... I KNOW WHAT THAT IS!!

NOWADAYS, THEY CALL THIS "RECYCLING."

...THAT ONE MUST ONLY USE ITEMS RECEIVED FROM OTHERS, WHETHER ROBES OR BOWLS...

IT'S REALLY NEAT, AND CHEAP.

THAT'S AMAZING! I THOUGHT THE ONLY THING THEY DID THAT WITH WAS JEANS!

200 SAFE

SALE

¥4300

OH, WE WEREN'T GETTING THAT WILD WITH RECYCLING ...

ARE YOU KIDDING?

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D BEEN INTO THAT SORT OF THING FOR SO LONG...

IT'S LIKE WHEN THEY TURN PLASTIC BOTTLES INTO CLOTHES!

IN MY RELIGION, TOO, THERE'S AN OLD CUSTOM...

I'M... NOT SURE HOW TO... RESPOND TO THAT.

RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE

THE SOUL CYCLE

YOU EVEN RECYCLE THE SOULS OF HUMAN BEINGS...

IT'S THE ULTIMATE ECO-FRIENDLY POLICY!

WELL, YES, THAT'S TRUE... BUT...

BUT COULDN'T YOU JUST GIVE THEM TO YOUR DISCIPLES? I'M SURE THAT'D MAKE THEM HAPPY...

'08 $2000 DISHWASHER

2010 MOD

I WONDER IF THEY'D TAKE A FEW OF MY T-SHIRTS.

ANYWAY... THEY *DO* HAVE CLOTHES HERE.

AH...

R-RIGHT...

OH, LOOK! ALL OF THESE PCS!

'09 MAC $1300

AND IT'S ONE OF THE COOL ONES!

OH! LOOK, JESUS, THEY HAVE ULTRA-THIN TVS...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TV THE FORMER OWNER HAS NOW?

A 3D TV?

I will never, ever take this off....

I CAN ALREADY SEE THEM WEARING THE SHIRTS FOREVER, UNTIL THEY'RE NOTHING BUT DUST...

OR PERHAPS THEY'D DISPLAY THEM AS HOLY ROBES.

W-WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS VERY COOL...

..BUT I THINK I'D RATHER NOT...

YOU'VE SEEN THOSE STYLISH COMMER-CIALS, RIGHT?

IT'S SO SLIM, IT'S GOT THAT SLEEK FORM FACTOR...

THAT'S NICE, RIGHT?

YEAH...

TAP TAP TAP TAP

I DON'T WANT TO FORGET ABOUT MY FAITHFUL OLD TSUKUMON ...

OOH, THE ICONS JUST POP UP!

AH, A LIST OF WORLD TEMPERATURES AT A SINGLE TOUCH. HOW THOUGHTFUL ...

HUH, THIS FEELS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW...

TAP TAP TAP TAP

I KNEW IT! JESUS IS IN JUST-ATE-AN-APPLE MODE!!

JUST THE KIND OF WISDOM I WOULD EXPECT FROM AN APPLE.

SHOPKEEP, DOES THIS COMPUTER COME WITH A WARRANTY?

I DO APPRECIATE THIS VERY INTUITIVE CONTROL...

TAP TAP TAP TAP

I FEEL AS THOUGH EVER MORE DRAMATIC SERMON LINES ARE BUBBLING UP INTO MY MIND.

HA HA HA. OH, SIDDHARTHA, LET ME BE CLEAR...

THERE, DID YOU HEAR THAT?!

MACS AREN'T AS GOOD FOR PLAYING GAMES.

IT'S TOO THIN, I DON'T KNOW IF IT CAN HANDLE *DAEMON HUNTER*...

JESUS, LET'S NOT GO WITH THAT ONE AFTER ALL!

DON'T DO THAT! YOU'LL UNLEASH A FIRESTORM OF ANGRY COMMENTS!!

...AND UPLOAD IT TO MY BLOG, EDITED LIKE A *PROJECT X* DOCUMENTARY!

I'M GOING TO USE THE MOVIE EDITOR TO CREATE A VIDEO EXPLAINING THE AWESOME NATURE OF THE END OF THE WORLD...

...I WOULD NEVER SPEND MY TIME DOING SOMETHING SO UNPRODUCTIVE!!

HMM? WHAT OS ARE YOU RUNNING ON THIS?

NO! YOU CAN'T! THEN WE REALLY WILL STARVE AND HAVE TO TRAVEL BACK HOME THIS MONTH!!

IN THAT CASE, I WILL GO TO A DIRECT RETAILER FOR A NEW ONE.

YOU DON'T SAY...? THAT'S NOT VERY RE-ASSURING ...

IT'S PRE-OWNED.

ALSO, THERE'S NO WARRANTY FOR THAT.

ARE YOU KIDDING? IS THIS A BOOTLEG, THEN?!

IT IS 98.

IF I SELL MY OLD VAIC, THAT SHOULD GIVE US ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT.

SEE? SO PUT THAT ONE DOWN AND LET'S LOOK FOR ANOTHER...

BUT THIS ONE SAYS IT'S *99.*

DAH DAH...

THE NEXT OS AFTER WINDOWS 98 WAS 2000...

TSUKUMO GAMI Windows99

TSUKUMO-GAMI... A NINETY-NINE DIVINE MODEL...

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO SELL THIS TO ME?!

HOW DOES A MODEL THIS OLD RUN SO QUICKLY?!

WOW, IT'S SO FAST!

LOVE *CAN* BE HEAVY, AFTER ALL...

...AND LOADED UP SO MANY ANTI-VIRUS PROGRAMS THAT IT'S ALL BOGGED DOWN...

SHE TRIED TO PROTECT ME FROM VIRUSES ...

THOSE WARNING SOUNDS GOT JUST A BIT SOFTER THAN BEFORE.

THE PC TURNED INTO A SUPERCOMPUTER WITH ITS NEWFOUND TSUKUMOGAMI POWER, BUT...

TSUKU-MON...

"TSUKU-MON"?!

TSUKUMON IS MINE! I WON'T LET YOU GO ANYWHERE!!

NO! TSUKU-MON!

AFTER THAT...

WAAH!

DA-DAH!

If only I could...
Ahhh! I feel alive again!
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB

CHAPTER 45 TRANSLATION NOTES

Eight million,
While the literal number for eight million in Japanese would be *happyaku-man*, in the context of Shinto gods the same kanji are read *yaoyorozu*, which is understood to mean simply a myriad, or plethora.

Sitavana,
A burial ground in the ancient Maghada kingdom of India. Because its colder temperature made it ideal for storing bodies, its Sanskrit name is translated into Japanese and Chinese as "cold forest," which is therefore a poetic term for a graveyard.

Seven lucky gods,
A collection of seven gods often depicted together in Japan. Each is originally based on a figure from either Hinduism or Buddhism (with one originating from Japanese folklore) and they correspond to different professions in society.

Isaac,
A figure from the Old Testament, son of Abraham and Sarah. The story of the binding of Isaac tells of how God ordered Abraham to sacrifice his son as a test. Abraham is interrupted before he can do the deed, God having been satisfied by his obedience, and thus sacrifices a ram instead.

The Elves and the Shoemaker,
A fairy tale contained among *Grimm's Fairy Tales* about a poor, hardworking shoemaker who wakes up to find that helpful elves have cobbled together his remaining leather into a pair of shoes that he can sell to keep his business open.

Kamen Rider,
A long-running *tokusatsu* (heavy on special effects) live action TV franchise, which translates to "Masked Rider." Virtually every year sees the unveiling of a different *Kamen Rider* series, featuring an insect-styled superhero who rides a motorcycle and fights against villains.

Project X,
An NHK documentary series that focuses on various achievements of Japan in a variety of topics, from science and technology to medicine, food, and architecture. Each episode depicts the people behind the achievements, explaining the historical background and the challenges they faced.

HE WAS A DISCIPLE FOLLOWING TWO DIFFERENT MASTERS...

BUDDHA UNDERWENT MANY TRIALS BEFORE HE GAINED ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

...IT'S A LETTER... FROM ALAMA-SENSEI...

...BUT, FINDING NEITHER OF THEIR TEACHINGS SATISFACTORY, HE LEFT THEM BOTH...

WELL, FINE... BUT HERE, USE MY STATIONERY...

I'LL WRITE HIM A RES-PONSE ...

I'LL TELL HIM I'M COMING!

POP

NO NEED TO GRAB THOSE...

I'VE RECEIVED THIS LETTER A HUNDRED TIMES ALREADY...

On SEI BUDDHA

THAT'S THE FIRST PERSON YOU WERE A DISCIPLE OF?

JESUS' SHIRT: ROCK

I CAN'T TURN HIM DOWN NOW ...!

NO, THIS TIME HE SAYS HE'S COMING TO VISIT DOWN IN THE MORTAL WORLD!

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO BACK, BUDDHA!

DOES HE WANT YOU TO COME BACK TO LEARN FROM HIM AGAIN?

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CIRCLE MY ANSWER ON THE "WILL YOU ATTEND THE REUNION?" QUESTION ON THE BACK...

OH, BUT IT'S AT THE "WAZOKU" PUB THAT'S CLOSEST TO US. THAT'S NICE, AT LEAST.

SRRT...

ALAMA-SENSEI WELCOME PARTY

I WILL ATTEND
I WILL NOT ATTEND

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 46

Let Old Acquaintance Be Rekindled!

BUDDHA CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY FEBRUARY ONLY HAS 28 DAYS. YOU'D THINK JANUARY AND MARCH COULD LEND IT ONE DAY EACH.

I FEEL SO AWKWARD ABOUT THIS...

IZAKAYA WAZOKU

OH, MAN...

THE DAY OF THE REUNION ...

JESUS CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY BARLEY TEA IS CALLED "TEA" WHEN IT'S A GRAIN, NOT A LEAF. BUT YOU WOULDN'T ASK FOR A "HOT CUP OF BARLEY," SO IT'S OKAY.

HE CAN'T BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT!

...THEN I WENT AND STARTED MY OWN.

I MEAN, I WAS ONLY PART OF HIS GROUP FOR A FEW DAYS BEFORE I LEFT...

HUH?

AH! ALAMA-SENSEI! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

AHA! IT *IS* YOU, SIDD-HARTHA-KUN!

YOU ACTUAL-LY CAME, THEN!!

AW, MAN. I JUST KNOW THAT ALAMA-SENSEI HATES ME NOW...

THIS WAZOKU IS GOING TO BE HOSTILE TERRITORY...

JPEZ

OH...?

WHO IS THAT THERE ...?

OF...OF COURSE... IT'S BEEN OVER TWO THOUSAND YEARS, AFTER ALL...

SIDDHARTHA-KUN... OR SHOULD I SAY...

AND SENSEI WAS ALSO IN SEARCH OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT...

I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU ...

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO CATCH UP WITH YOU...

OH... HE SEEMS... FRIENDLY?

...SHOULD THAT BE "BUDDHA-SAMA"...?

HRG

...THE ENLIGHTENED ONE, BUDDHA-KUN...

OR...

...OR, IF YOU LIKE, *DUAL-MILLENNIA DOZER.*

YOU CAN CALL ME *THE SLUMBERING ONE...*

*OH, HE IS HOLDING **SUCH** A GRUDGE ABOUT THIS! HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!*

YOU GET THE SEAT OF HONOR!! YOU ARE AN HONORABLE GOD, AFTER ALL!!

HERE! COME IN!!

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: UPALI

UM... JUST SIDDHARTHA IS FINE.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME? WE DID ASCETIC TRAINING TOGETHER ...

WOW, IT'S BEEN FOREVER!

HUH?

OH CRAP, IT'S REALLY BUDDHA-SAN. IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

OH!

UHHH... UHM...

うぱり

I KNEW IT!! THIS IS HOSTILE TERRITORY!!!!

NOD

NOD

OHH... YEAH!

OF COURSE I DON'T REMEMBER! FOR ONE THING, ASCETIC MONKS...

...ARE SKINNY AND BALD AND WEAR THE SAME ROBES! YOU CAN'T TELL THEM APART!!

YEAH... UHH...

...WITH TWO FELLOW STUDENTS!

BUT WHICH ONE WAS HE?!

WAS HE THE ONE WHO GOT HIS INNARDS PULLED OUT?!

VUL-TURES!

UM... YEAH!

OH, GOOD! OF COURSE YOU DO, WE GOT PECKED BY VULTURES TOGETHER!

LET'S SEE... I REMEMBER BEING PECKED BY VULTURES. ...

OH, ME? I'M JUST RECHARGING MY BATTERIES.

SO, UH, ENTRAILS... WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

WELL, AT LEAST IT MEANS THERE'S SOMEONE I KNOW HERE...

SURE.

HEY, EN-TRAILS!

YOU WANT OOLONG TEA?

UH...

I GET THAT. ONCE YOU ESCAPE A LONG CYCLE OF SAMSARA...

YOU'RE ON A LONG-TERM VACATION?! ME TOO!

...YOU REALLY NEED TO TAKE A BIT OF BREAK...

HE IS THE GUY WHO GOT HIS GUTS PULLED OUT!

AND NOW HE'S GOT A NICKNAME BASED ON IT?!

I HAVEN'T FINISHED WITH SAMSARA YET...

BLUSH

OH... WELL... ACTUALLY, I...

...TO COM-MISERATE OVER OUR STRUGGLES.

WE JUST GET TOGETHER LIKE THIS TO SHARE DRINKS EVERY NOW AND THEN...

IN FACT... NOBODY HERE HAS ESCAPED IT YET...

NOT EVERYBODY JUST SKIPS ALL THE STAGES TO ESCAPE THE CYCLE LIKE YOU DO...

AS FOR ALAMA-SENSEI, HE'S DUE TO BE REBORN AS A FUNGUS GNAT.

OH...I SEE. W-WELL, AT LEAST YOU KNOW YOU'LL BE LIVING WHERE IT'S WARM...

I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO BE REBORN AS A KANGAROO TOMORROW...

UGH... THIS PLACE FEELS LIKE THE REMOTE JUNGLE THICKETS WHERE I PRACTICED HARSH ASCETIC TRAINING!!

YEAH, I KNOW...

CAN'T WAIT TO BREAK FREE...

OH, I LOVE MOOMIN.

HUMAN AGAIN. FINNISH THIS TIME.

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT LIFE, THEN?

HMM?

I ALREADY HAVE A MESSAGE FROM JESUS...

M-MAYBE I COULD ASK JESUS TO FIND SOME REASON TO CALL ME BACK HOME...

TAK TAK TAK

It'd be better for everyone if I left!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU'VE GOT AN E-MAIL FROM THE CHRIST HIMSELF?

OOH, LOOK AT THE ENLIGHTENED ONE AND HIS FANCY FRIENDS!!

JESUS CHRIST!!

:-) Reunion

I was thinking of the good old days too, so I got some old carpenter pals together for a reunion. Have fun at your thing, too! P.S. Could be out all night.

SO HEY, THANK YOU ALL FOR SHOWING UP LIKE THIS!

TRUST ME, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF WINE TO GO AROUND...

JESUS...

CHEERS!!

...SO LET'S JUST HAVE A GOOD TIME!

YOU USED TO BE MORE MUSCULAR IN THE PAST, THOUGH.

AND YOU'RE SO SKINNY, YOSHI!

WHAP

WHAP

LOOK AT YOU ALL, YOU'RE STILL IN SHAPE!

HE ALWAYS SAYS THAT WHENEVER WE TALK ABOUT YOU.

HA HA HA!

I KNEW THIS GUY WAS DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS!

I HAD A FEELING, THOUGH!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

OUR OLD PAL YOSHI, A GOD NOW!

NOW MY JOB IS MORE LIKE DESK WORK...

WELL, I CHANGED CAREERS, SO...

BY THE WAY...

NO MATTER THE TIME OR SITUATION, WE ALWAYS END UP LAUGHING LIKE THE OLD DAYS...

OH, I LOVE THESE GUYS, THEY ALWAYS CHEER ME UP...

A TOWER.

A BRIDGE.

...EACH OF YOU HAS BUILT?

WHAT'S THE LATEST THING...

...WAS *YOUR* WORK?!

HANG ON... YOU MEAN THAT SUPER-FINE SURFACE PLANING ...

YEP! THAT WAS ME!

A TOWER?!

OH! YOU DON'T MEAN THAT ONE RIGHT NEAR THE PEARLY GATES...

I TELL YOU, THE GUY WHO INVENTED THAT *HAS* TO BE A GOD!

WOW, THIS CAN EVEN HIT THOSE HARD-TO-REACH SPOTS!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A PLANER SHAPED LIKE THAT!!

THEY'VE GONE INTO HARD CORE CARPEN-TRY TALK!

WHOA! THE Y-MODEL!!

YEAH. GOT A NEW PLANER AND EVERY-THING.

GULP...

SURE, SURE! I MEAN, TECHNICALLY, DAD CREATED *EVERY...*

OH, GOOD! FINALLY, A SPOT FOR ME TO FIT IN...

OH...

YEAH, MAN, YOUR DAD IS A GOD!

HE'S TALKING ABOUT YOUR DAD!

HUH...?

OH, NO... I CAN'T TAKE PART IN THIS CONVER-SATION...

NOT MY ALL-KNOWING AND ALL-POWERFUL DAD.

OH, I GET IT!

...BUT...

The human...

RIGHT? YOU MEAN MY CARPENTER DAD, JOSEPH...

IN EVERY HUMAN PURSUIT, THERE IS A GOD TO BE FOUND.

AHH! SORRY, SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!!

...TO CARPENTERS LIKE US, FOREMAN JOSEPH IS A GOD!!

CHUG!!
CHUG!!
CHUG!!
I-I'M SORRY! OF COURSE I RESPECT DAD, OF COURSE...
AND THE MOST YOU CAN SAY IS...
JOSEPH-SAN'S PLANING IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
GO!
GO!
GO!
THESE PEOPLE FROM THE MORTAL REALM ARE SO NOISY...
CLAP!
CLAP!
THEY'RE REALLY ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT THE NEXT BOOTH OVER!
WOW, THAT WAS LOUD ...
YEAAH !!
JANGLE
AAAH !!
NOW CHUG, CHUG, CHUG!!
CLAP!
CLAP!
LET'S GO, CHAMP!
LET'S GET FOUR MORE PINTS OVER HERE!
JANGLE
NOW DRINK SOME WATER, QUICK!
...OH, GEEZ...
SHOW US HOW IT'S DONE!

I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYONE'S NAME IN THIS GROUP!!

WHY ARE THEY ACTING LIKE THIS?! WAS THIS ALWAYS THE FISHING BOAT VIBE?!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE!!

MY BROTHER WANDERED OFF TO THAT TABLE, SAYING THAT "THEY SEEMED SUBDUED"...

TIME TO GET 'EM PUMPED UP!!

GO!

GO!

LET'S LIST ALL THE FISH WE KNOW!!

WHATEVER! A PARTY'S A PARTY!

NO, "FISHERS OF MEN" WAS *OUR* TITLE!

THE "FISHERMAN REUNION FROM THE SAME PORT" IS OVER HERE.

BUT THAT'S THE WRONG GROUP!

BUT WE CAN CALL OURSELVES THAT NOW!

IT'S TRUE THAT WE DIDN'T FOLLOW JESUS-SAMA RIGHT AWAY...

THEY'RE HAVING A SERIOUS DISCUSSION.

IT'S SOME KIND OF NEW EMPLOYEE WELCOMING PARTY FOR A STATIONARY COMPANY!!

I DON'T CARE IF *OJISAN* MEANS "MIDDLE-AGED MAN," ***THAT*** OJISAN IS A FISH WITH WHISKERS, NOT AN ACTUAL MAN!!

OJISAN

AND WE CATCH THEM!

I MEAN, THERE ACTUALLY IS A TYPE OF FISH CALLED AN ***OJISAN!***

ALL RIGHT, FINE! I'M GOING TO BECOME A PARANORMAL HUNTER!!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CALL YOURSELF THAT UNTIL YOU'VE CAUGHT THAT CRYPTID KNOWN AS "HUMANITY"!

GO! GO!

YOU KNOW WHAT JESUS-SAMA SAYS...

HE SAYS... UH...

YELLOW-TAIL!

YELLOW-TAIL!

...

THEN *I'LL* BE A FISHER OF MEN, TOO!

SWISH

...

WOO! WOO!

YOU NEED TO CATCH FISH THAT PEOPLE CAN EAT...

I ASSUME THAT'S FINE WITH YOU, ANDREW!!

BLOWFISH!
BLOWFISH!!

LET'S GO!

CLAP

CLAP

TUNA!
TUNA!!

RICEFISH!
RICEFISH!!

CLAP

CLAP

YEAH!

SALMON!
SALMON!!

WHEN THEY GET BOGGED DOWN IN A TIRESOME ARGUMENT, THE TWO BROTHERS ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO WRIGGLE OUT OF IT...

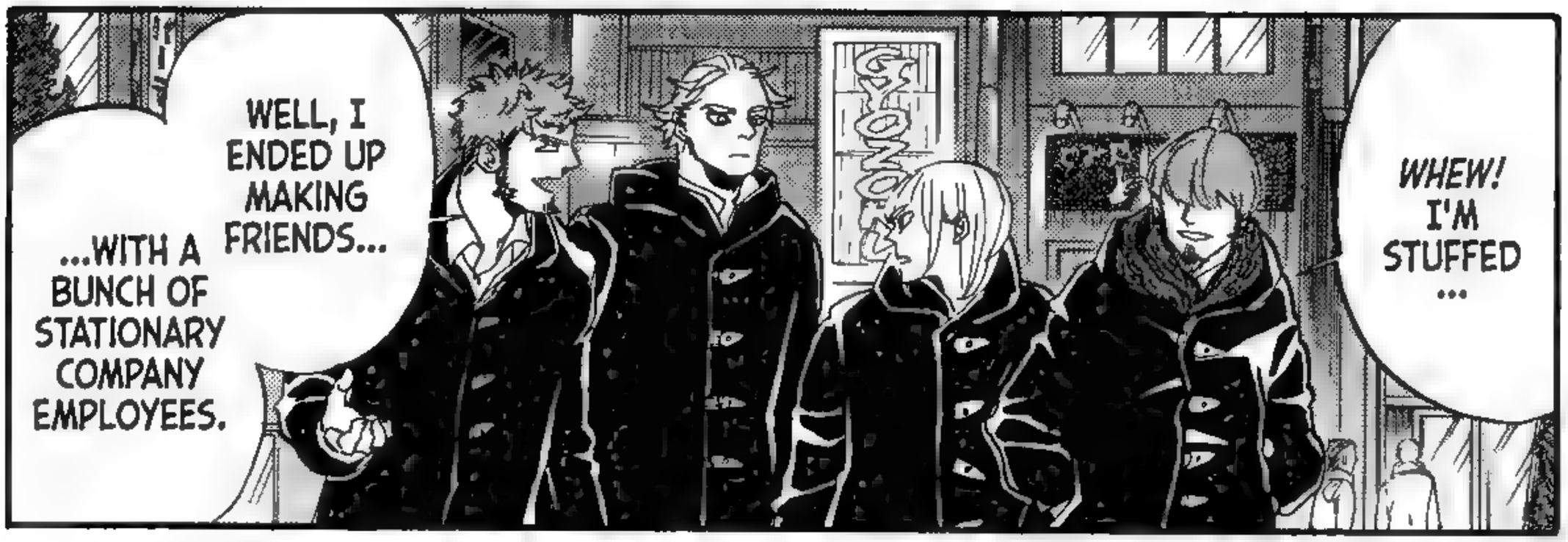
TRUE.

...ANDREW ALWAYS GETS UP AND LEAVES WITHOUT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...

GO!

GO!

GO!


...WITH A BUNCH OF STATIONARY COMPANY EMPLOYEES.
WELL, I ENDED UP MAKING FRIENDS...
WHEW! I'M STUFFED ...

IT'S ALREADY ELEVEN. LET'S NOT BE RUDE.
LET'S GO AND VISIT JESUS-SAMA!
SHOULD WE TAKE THIS TO ANOTHER PUB? OR BACK TO THE HEAVENS?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?

I'M SURE HE'S BACK HOME, LIKE THE HOLY MAN HE IS...
I WOULDN'T WANT TO MEET HIM WHILE WE'RE SLOSHED ...

...PETER...

...I WOULD SEE HIM ON THE ROAD WHENEVER HE WANTED TO TEACH ME SOMETHING...
A LONG TIME AGO, AFTER JESUS-SAMA ASCENDED TO HEAVEN...
IS HE DOING IT AGAIN HERE?!

?!
JESUS-SAMA...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D BE OUT HERE, AMONG ALL THE BARS AND PUBS!!

...IN CHASING BAD DRINKS WITH SOME BETTER ONES?

WOULD YOU JOIN US...

...BUT OF COURSE, SIR...

WHY DID YOU GO TO THE GYOZOKU IN TACHIKAWA?

ANDREW!!

WAA!

I MEAN, YOU CAN'T JUST LIVE ON MEMORIES FROM THE PAST, YOU KNOW.

THE PASSAGE OF TIME IS JUST CRUEL, THAT'S ALL!

IT'S NOT ANYONE'S *FAULT*, REALLY ...

THEY KEPT CHATTING UNTIL THE ROOSTER CROWED IN THE MORNING.

LIKE TORI-YAMA'S ROAD?!

TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO COME HOME, JESUS-SAMA...

WHAT? WHEN?! WHY?!

THEY BUILT A JACOB'S LADDER STRAIGHT TO TACHIKAWA...

IT'S EASY TO GET THERE NOW.

WELL, YOU CAN'T HELP THAT. IT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK LIKE THE OLD DAYS.

I'll give it my all...
next life.
By Entrails

CHAPTER 46 TRANSLATION NOTES

Rock,
God and Jesus are often compared to a rock to describe their supportive qualities beneath one's feet. The phrase "The Lord is my rock" appears in several books of the Bible.

Alama-sensei,
Gautama Buddha's first teacher was a hermit by the name of Alara Kalama, until Gautama ultimately became his equal, and moved on to find a new teacher. Within Saint Young Men, this figure is referred to as simply "Alama".

Wazoku,
An in-world chain of *izakaya*, or Japanese-style pubs that serve drinks and smaller food items, ideal for social gatherings. The name *wazoku* literally means "people/clan of harmony."

Upali,
One of the Buddha's ten primary disciples. Upali was born to a low caste in Buddha's society, and served the Shakya clan as a barber, a very low and disrespected profession within the traditional caste system. Upali became acquainted with Gautama as a child when he shaved the future Buddha's head.

Gyozoku,
After Buddha's trip to the izakaya named Wazoku (harmonious people), Jesus' *izakaya* means "fish people," most likely referring to his instruction to his disciples that they should be "fishers of men."

Ojisan,
The word ojisan literally means "uncle," but is often used in a general sense to refer to any middle-aged man. The fish (a species of goatfish in English) is called *ojisan* because it has the "goatee" feelers that look like an old man's facial hair.

Jacob's ladder,
A ladder going up to heaven that appeared in one of Jacob's dreams, as described in the Book of Genesis.

Toriyama's road,
An urban legend dating back to the glory days of *Dragon Ball.* Artist Akira Toriyama is famous for living in Aichi Prefecture rather than moving to Tokyo like many successful artists. His finished chapters had to be flown back to Tokyo from Aichi, and the urban legend states that the prefecture was so reliant upon his personal income taxes that they built a private road straight to the airport just for him, to dissuade him from moving away.

...BELIEVING THAT IF THEY WERE TRUE BELIEVERS, THEY WOULD MEET GOD AFTER DEATH.

THE PEOPLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY MAINTAINED THEIR BELIEFS UNTIL THEY WERE CALLED TO HEAVEN...

THE "ABSENTEE GOD AND BUDDHA" PROBLEM?

BUT IN THE HEAVENS, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN DESPAIR...

I DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE CREATING SUCH DESPAIR UP THERE...

IT'S STARTING TO LEAD TO STATEMENTS LIKE "THERE ARE NO GODS OR BUDDHAS!"

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE RECENTLY WHO HAVE NOT SEEN EITHER OF YOU SINCE REACHING THE HEAVENS...

YES, OF COURSE! WE PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THAT VERY IMPORTANT MOMENT!

Wow, real angels! It's just like Dog of Flanders!!

IT'S STRANGE, THOUGH. YOU'D THINK THAT SEEING THE ANGELS WELCOMING THEM TO HEAVEN...

...WOULD LEAD TO AN ALL-AROUND BELIEF IN US...

I mean, it's pretty spectacular...

ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU TWO ARE ABSENT...

THEY'RE STARTING TO THINK OF YOU LIKE CRYPTIDS, OR SANTA CLAUS...

Are they stig-mata?!

Ahh, there are holes in the middle of his eyes?!

...TO BE DONE WITH MASCOT COSTUMES REPRESENTING BUDDHA-SAMA OR JESUS-SAMA...

WE OFTEN ARRANGE FOR THE SUMMONS TO HEAVEN ...

I'M PRETTY CERTAIN *THAT'S* WHAT IS MAKING THEM THINK THAT WE DON'T EXIST!!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 47

Prove Your Existence!

BUDDHA RECENT DISCOVERY: ACCIDENTALLY LICKED A LOTION TISSUE AND FOUND IT WAS SWEET.

OF COURSE THEY ARE!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT PEOPLE ACTUALLY *BELIEVING* THOSE COSTUMES ARE US, WOULD YOU?!

Still, I guess it's definitely Heaven when compared to Hell. But you're still dead, so...

Sorry about all of this.

This is what you get with Heaven, a bunch of clouds.

What, of? Can I touch your wounds?

Are you really dead?

Let's have a good time! Unh! Woo!!

Yeah!! Welcome to Heaven, woo!!

...BUT NOW PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT HOW YOUR CHARACTER KEEPS SHIFTING...

WE'VE BEEN HAVING VARIOUS DISCIPLES TAKE SHIFTS PLAYING YOU...

JESUS RECENT DISCOVERY: IF HE STICKS HIS TONGUE AGAINST HIS UPPER JAW, HE WON'T CRY WHEN CUTTING ONIONS.

THINK WE SHOULD GO AND POP OUR HEADS IN?

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE THINKING WE'RE MYTHICAL CREATURES, THOUGH...

...WHY MY DISCIPLES CAN DO SO MANY MORE IMPRESSIONS OF ME THESE DAYS!

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY EXPLAINS ...

...IS TO ASK FOR SOMETHING ELSE...

IN FACT, THE REASON I VISITED YOU TODAY...

WE COULDN'T FORCE YOU TO GO TO THE TROUBLE WHEN YOU'RE ON VACATION!

WE'RE GOOD TO GO, GUYS!

NO, GO RIGHT... AHEAD?

...?

REALLY?! DO YOU MIND IF I BRING IN THE EQUIPMENT, THEN?!

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP! I'M ALL EARS!

WHAT IS IT?

WHY? DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN AUTOGRAPH...?

OOH! WHAT IF WE HOLD A SIGNING?

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY!!

ANYONE NOT ALREADY BUSY, PUT SOME BLUE SCREEN OVER THE WALLS!

GET THE CAMERAS OVER THERE, THANKS!

...TO MAKE A PROMOTIONAL VIDEO?!

YOU WANT ...

YES, THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IF ALL THEY HAVE IS THIS VIDEO TO WATCH...

I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE A *HARDER* TIME BELIEVING IN US...

BUD

RECEPTION

WHAT?!

TO PLAY WHILE PEOPLE ARE WAITING TO BE ACCEPTED INTO HEAVEN...?

OR, "THEY JUST GOT JOHNNY DEPP TO PLAY HIM IN THIS REENACTMENT VIDEO," RIGHT?

...THEY'LL THINK, *"MY GOD CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THIS HOT."*

UM, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? WOULDN'T THAT HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT?!

ACTUALLY, I HAVE DONE A MAJOR FILMING PROCESS BEFORE...

I SUPPOSE I WOULDN'T MIND DOING A BIG VIDEO PRODUCTION...

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE ALL FOR THE IDEA, THEN?

Would that make me look **too** Deppy?

OR HOW ABOUT FROM ***BEHIND?*** REAL DIVINE-LIKE!

OH, MAN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR LIGHTING? FROM THE RIGHT? OR THE LEFT?

THE HOLY SHROUD, YOU MEAN? THAT'S MORE LIKE A RUBBING THAN ANYTHING.

...BUT THE ONLY THING IT PRODUCED WAS MORE LIKE A FILM NEGATIVE...

KNOCK KNOCK

YEAH... THAT MAKES SENSE!

GREAT! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO...

I'VE BROUGHT OUR DIRECTORS IN!

LET'S TRY TO BE MORE GODLY THAN USUAL.

IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF WE PLAY THE PART...

THAT WAY, THE PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO HEAVEN WILL FEEL MORE SECURE ABOUT IT ALL.

IT'LL PROBABLY BE MORE LIKE A STUFFY SCHOOL ORIENTATION VIDEO.

I BET THIS WON'T BE THAT MUCH FUN, THOUGH.

HMM, YOU THINK SO?

ラジエル

NOW!

LET'S START WITH YOUR MAKEUP AND WARDROBE...

BUDDHA WAS ALREADY ENTERING HIS ASCETIC TRAINING MODE.

THIS VIDEO IS GOING TO BE A NIGHTMARE.

FIRST, WE'LL NEED YOU TO PUT ON THIS FULL-BODY WIG OF GOLDEN, DOWNY BODY HAIR.

THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE COMBINATION OF PEOPLE TO BE RUNNING THE SHOW!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW...?

...AND BROUGHT CLOTHES WITH CROSS AND ROSE MOTIFS AND SUCH...

B-BUT AT LEAST MICHAEL-SAN'S BEING REASONABLE ...

IT'S CLEAR FROM THE LOOK ON THEIR FACES THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE THE EASY ROAD!

WE'D BETTER PREPARE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOR...

LET ME BORROW YOUR TV, THEN.

Y-YES! LET'S SEE IT!

VERY PEACEFUL... DID THEY CHOOSE THIS BECAUSE OF THE STORY WHERE ZEUS-SAN TRANSFORMED INTO A BULL?

OKAY, IT'S A FARM...

MOO

OH, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ANOTHER GOD'S PROMO THAT WE FILMED EARLIER?

WHAT KIND OF VIDEO ARE THEY GOING TO SHOOT ...?

WE JUST FINISHED UP ZEUS-SAN'S VIDEO A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

NO, HE'S DEFINITELY TAKING IT IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!

OH NO, YOU'RE RIGHT! THE TEEN EDGELORD INSIDE OF HIM IS RAMPAGING OUT OF CONTROL!!

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
...POLY...
GONAL...?
RMM
RMM
RMM
IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE... KIND OF...
ZEUS
KABOOM
FLIK
ZEUS
TA-
DAAA!!

SAPPORO
KUSHIRO
NAHA
BOOM
AKITA
NIIGATA
SENDAI
NAGANO
TOKYO
HIROSHIMA
FUKUOKA
OSAKA
GOYA
KOCHI
KAGOSHIMA
TA-DAAA!
FLIK
NAHA
NIIGATA
NAGANO
TOKYO
HIROSHIMA
OSAKA
NAGOYA
KOCHI

SO WE JUST TOOK SOME QUICK FOOTAGE, AND...

ZEUS IS TOO BUSY FOR US TO SEND HIM OUT ON A LOCATION SHOOT.

THIS VIDEO IS GOING TO BE A DISASTER!!!

ZEUS-SAMA HIMSELF WAS STUNNED WHEN HE SAW THE FINISHED PRODUCT.

NOT TO WORRY.

IS THIS ...?

IT'S ALL CG!

WE MUST STAY STRONG! WE CAN'T LET ZEUS-SAN'S SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN!

IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, WE'LL END UP SUFFERING THE SAME FATE!

HIS WARDROBE IS HERE! IT DOESN'T LOOK GOLD TO ME. I WONDER WHAT STYLE IT IS...

O-OKAY.

PLEASE PUT ON THIS OUTFIT.

YOU FIRST, SIDDHARTHA.

...GO AHEAD AND GIVE US A DANCE.

AND NOW ...

...

?!

WHAT KIND OF LOOK IS THAT?!

You're not alone!!

WE'LL COMPOSITE IN 50 ELEPHANTS AND 300 DANCERS BEHIND HIM!

DON'T WORRY.

...HUH?! JUST LIKE THAT?! ALL BY HIMSELF?!

...AND ESCAPE, JUST AS DEPICTED IN THIS DRAWING.

...TO JUMP THROUGH THE WIND-SHIELD...

THEN DEVADATTA WILL DRIVE A CAR INTO THE SCENE, SO WE WANT YOU...

ALL THESE ROMANTIC PLOT POINTS... I KNOW THIS!!

A tragic love.

SHE'S PLAYING YOUR WIFE, SO THERE WILL BE A ROMANTIC DANCE SCENE LATER, TOO.

IS THIS WOMAN AN EXTRA, THEN?

I RECOGNIZE THIS! I KNOW THIS STYLE...!!

I KNOW...

B-BUDDHA! I THINK THIS SCRIPT IS...

THEY'RE PUTTING BUDDHA INTO ONE OF THOSE SILLY, FUNNY BOLLYWOOD FLICKS!

THEY'RE MAKING AN INDIAN MOVIE!

SHE'LL BE IN THE PASSENGER SEAT. THERE'S A SHOT WHERE YOU SAVE HER.

WHEW...

IT'S PERFECTLY REASONABLE! WHAT A RELIEF!

THAT'S IT, THAT'S THE SMILE!

ALL RIGHT, SIDDHARTHA. FIRST, YOU POP YOUR HEAD AROUND THAT PILLAR.

HUH...?

JESUS FELT A DISTANCE BEYOND ANY DIFFERENCE IN RELIGION OR NATIONALITY...

WE'LL PATCH IN A THOUSAND DANCERS BEHIND YOU LATER!

THEN YOU START DANCING!

SORRY, BUDDHA, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING BURNED TO ME!

Y-YEAH... FINE...

AHH, I'M SO GLAD MY PROMO VIDEO'S GOING TO TURN OUT JUST FINE.

OH, THESE MUST BE JESUS'S WARDROBE AND PROPS...

HOW CAN I TURN DOWN BUDDHA GENTLY, WHEN HE'S SO SATISFIED WITH HIS PART?!

UH-OH, WHAT IF THEY WANT ME TO DO THE SAME KIND OF THING?!

AH! NOT LIKE THAT...

YOU WANT ME TO WEAR THIS BASE-BALL CAP?

OH... IS THIS MINE?

AAAAAH!!!

SHWIP

WEAR IT...

...LIKE *THIS.*

IT'S CALIFORNIA BEHIND YOU, ONCE WE INSERT THE BACKGROUND!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! NOW LOOK OVER THIS WAY!

GO AHEAD AND STUMBLE, JUST TO SELL IT!!

THAT'S IT! IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME SKATING!

YOU'VE GOT THE CALIFORNIA SUN IN YOUR EYES!

YES! CITRUS FRESH!

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT SCENE. LOTS OF CG!

WHAP

I'M HERE.

PUMP

NEXT, WE'LL DO A SCENE WITH YOUR FRIEND, URIEL-KUN!

YOU WANT THAT FOOTAGE, TOO?

I NEED TO RETIE MY SHOES...

THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY TO SELL THE IMAGE OF A BEARDED MAN FROM TWO MILLENNIA AGO, IS IT...?

YES! GET A ZOOM IN!

HE'S REALLY GETTING INTO IT! I CAN'T LOOK!!

IS SOMETHING GOING TO EXPLODE ...?!

WE'RE GOING TO USE THE VERY LATEST SPECIAL EFFECTS...

OH, IT'S SPECTACULAR! THIS WILL BE THE MOST SHOCKING SHOT WE DO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT KIND OF CG?

WHAT? YOU CAN DO THAT?! INCREDIBLE!!

Okay, Uri-kun, hold your stomach like your can't hold the laughter in!!

...TO MAKE URIEL LITERALLY EXPLODE WITH LAUGHTER...

LOTTA NOISE GOING ON IN THERE...

THAT IS SHOCK-ING!!

HE'LL WINK, TOO!

PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO THE FINISHED PRODUCT!

WE'LL HANDLE ALL THE REST FROM HERE...

NICE JOB ON THE SHOOT, EVERYONE!

AND THEN ...

PEEK

I THOUGHT MINE WAS BETTER THAN INITIALLY EXPECTED...

PEEK

...BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIS...

WHEW...

THUMP

SLUMP

ガシダーラ

OH, THANK GOOD-NESS... IT'S ALL OVER...

WOW! IT SAYS THAT THE VIDEOS ARE A BIG HIT ON *ARCHAIC SMILE VIDEO*, TOO!

Buddha-sama, Jesus-sama,
Your finished promos are complete, so I've sent you a disc in this package. They've also been uploaded to the Heavenly website Archaic Smile Video. Everyone really loves t
Thank you for

WHAT IF THEY'RE IN THE TOP RANKED VIDEOS?!

UH, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO...

SH-SHOULD WE CHECK IT OUT? I WONDER WHAT THE COMMENTS ARE LIKE...

...TO STEM THE RISING TIDE OF ANGEL WORSHIP...

URIEL ...
I SEEM TO RECALL THAT IN 745, I DEMOTED YOU FROM ANGEL-HOOD...

I'D FEEL AWKWARD IF MY VIDEO IS WAY MORE POPULAR THAN HIS...

ARCHAIC SMILE VID
Back to Rankings
Hall of Fame Videos, Daily Top
Lv 10 Ad Comments
1 ft
Laughing Uriel
Just the parts of Jesus's vid whe
Is this the End Times? It's CG W
2 ft
Nobody who laughs like this could b
He looks like a demon, right? But believe
he's an angel.
Uriel-sama what an archangel Like a rabid dog? He
Just Uriel's laughing scene on a loop
Made this for myself and threw it on here. Makes
Hearing this relaxes me now He must be protected It's

THE NEXT MOST POPULAR VIDEO WAS ZEUS'S, BY THE WAY.

WAIT, WAIT, PUT AWAY YOUR SWORD. I WAS JUST WARNING YOU THAT I AM DELETING YOUR VIDEOS.

SHING

I UNDERSTAND, LORD. I WILL RETURN MY WINGS AT ONCE.

JUST A MOMENT.

Different disciples of Buddha's wear the Buddha suit, but they pretty much all end up sounding like this.

CHAPTER 47 TRANSLATION NOTES

Dog of Flanders,
A touching and tragic 19th century English novel about a poor Belgian boy named Nello and his dog, Patrasche. Very popular in Japan, it received a 1975 TV anime adaptation that remains one of the most beloved animation series ever. At the tragic end, Nello and Patrasche freeze to death in the winter, and witness cherubim coming to take them up to heaven.

Holy Shroud,
A burial shroud, also known as the Shroud of Turin, which is purportedly what Jesus was buried in after his crucifixion. In the original Japanese, Buddha compares the process to gyotaku (literally "fish printing"), a practice of creating ink rubbings of fish for aesthetic or record-keeping purposes.

Raziel,
A Judeo-Christian archangel, Raziel is known as being a keeper of secret knowledge. In Jewish Kabbalah, one story holds that Raziel gave Adam and Eve his book of knowledge after they ate the forbidden fruit and were exiled from the Garden of Eden.

Gandhara,
The name of an ancient kingdom in present day Pakistan which was a major center of ancient Buddhism. It was the source of some of the oldest Buddhist manuscripts, and also home to a flourishing style of Greco-Buddhist art that combined Hellenistic and Buddhist traditions.

Archaic Smile Video,
The archaic smile is the name of a type of facial expression often seen on ancient Greek sculpture. In this case, it's also a pun on the popular Japanese video-hosting website Nico Nico Video, which is analogous to Youtube, and translates to "Smiley-Smile Video."

Uriel,
The archangel Uriel is not mentioned in any of the books of the Protestant Christian Bible, but does appear in material accepted as canonical in Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Pope St. Zachary forbade obsession with angel worship in 745 to head off certain practices growing in popularity at the time, and held that certain books that heavily mentioned Uriel were not canonical.

***Archaic Smile Video*,**
The "archaic smile" is a type of smile seen on Greek statues from the Archaic period (5th - 6th centuries BCE).

TODAY IS MAY 5TH.

ISN'T IT COOL?!

THAT ONE'S MINE!

WHAT DOES THIS RITUAL MEAN, I WONDER?

FISH, FLOATING IN THE SKY...

MATSUDA-SAN?

GRANDMA BOUGHT IT FOR ME!

JESUS' SHIRT: PESACH

THEN THE ONE ON THE BOTTOM MUST BE ME...

HMM?

...AND THE LITTLE ONE IS THE CHILD!

THE BLUE ONE IS DADDY, THE RED ONE IS MOMMY ...

THE FISH WAS AN EARLY SYMBOL OF MINE...

ΙΧΘΥΣ

...SO THIS IS SOME CELEBRATION RELATED TO ME, I ASSUME?!

THEY'RE SUCH NICE BOYS...

HEH, I BET I KNOW... THE ONE UP ABOVE THE FATHER FISH IS...

THEN WHAT'S THAT SQUID-LIKE ONE AT THE TOP?

UMM, I DUNNO...

SEI-SAN'S PLAYING WITH MY GRAND-SON...

DAD THE CREATOR

JOSEPH THE OTHER DAD

MOTHER MARY

SON OF GOD, ME

...THE TRUE FATHER, THE ONE WHO'S IN HEAVEN NOW...

?!

WHAT KIND OF IDEAS ARE YOU PUTTING IN MY GRANDSON'S HEAD?!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 48

The Many Tales of Childhood

BUDDHA HIS FAVORITE CHILDHOOD GAME WAS WHISTLING WITH HIS FINGERS. STUNNED TO FIND HE CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE.

SO IT'S A HOLIDAY THAT CELEBRATES THE GROWTH OF CHILDREN!

CHILDREN'S DAY?

JESUS HIS FAVORITE CHILDHOOD GAME WAS SKIPPING STONES ON WATER. SHOCKED THAT HE CAN ONLY GET UP TO FOUR SKIPS NOW.

JUST YOU WAIT. I'M PEELING THE BAMBOO SHOOTS NOW.

IS THE FOOD READY YET, GRANDMA?

TO FISHERS OF MEN

Is this your fishing hole, Peter? I'm the son of God, so don't fish me tololol

Better delete...

YIKES, I ALMOST SENT PETER AN E-MAIL ABOUT THIS...

WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY? I *AM* THE SON OF GOD, YOU KNOW!

I'VE HEARD MARY-SAN SAY THAT YOU WERE A WISE AND ANGELIC CHILD, YOURSELF...

HA HA... MATSUDA-SAN CAN'T HELP BUT DOTE ON HER LITTLE GRANDSON.

AND THERE'LL BE A CAKE TODAY, TOO.

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SUDATTA

BUT MY TEENAGE YEARS WERE FUN.

I SEE... THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS STRESS-FUL.

BUT I HAD TO HOLD BACK ON THAT PRECOCIOUS NATURE OF MINE...

AFTER ALL, IT COULD PUT MY LIFE IN DANGER FROM KING HEROD.

THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDREN IS TRULY A BEAUTIFUL THING!

SURE. ALTHOUGH I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE CHOSEN ULTRAMAN FOR THAT ANALOGY.

Having a secret power that you can't reveal to others!

IT WAS REALLY THRILLING, LIKE BEING A MAGICAL GIRL, YOU KNOW...?

...THOSE THRILLS GRADUALLY TURNED INTO *CHILLS...*

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT...

THAT'S RIGHT, THOUGH. I FORGET THAT YOU TOOK A WHILE BEFORE YOU BECAME A SAINT...

MATSUDA-SAN LANDLADY OF BUDDHA AND JESUS'S APART-MENT BUILDING. HER FAVORITE CHILDHOOD GAME WAS JUMP ROPE. THE LAST TIME SHE TRIED IT, SHE FELL AND NEARLY BROKE A BONE.

I'M FINE! I'M THE SON OF GOD. I'M THE SON OF GOD!

I STARTED TO FEEL MORE AND MORE NERVOUS ABOUT MYSELF...

DAD WOULDN'T TALK TO ME AT ALL DURING THAT TIME.

NOT QUITE. WHEN I GOT INTO MY TWENTIES...

BECAUSE OF KING HEROD'S FOLLOW-ERS?!

IT'S ALMOST UP!

THE FRESHNESS OF BEING SON OF GOD IS ALMOST STALE...

I PRAYED THAT I WOULD GET THE GO-AHEAD SIGN FROM DAD BEFORE I REACHED THE BIG THREE-OH...

I SUPPOSE I CAN SEE WHY THE SON OF GOD WOULD FIND THAT FRIGHTENING.

...PEOPLE AROUND ME STARTED WHISPERING, "NOW THAT HE'S OVER TWENTY, HE'S JUST A NORMAL PERSON"...

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE DOING THAT...

I'VE FOUND SOMETHING ELSE TO DO WITH MY LIFE...

I DON'T THINK SO...

BROTHER JOSHUA, AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET MARRIED?

YOU GONNA TAKE OVER THE BOSS'S WORK-SHOP?

Kids are great!

ゴクッ

IN MY THIR-TIES...

I'M PRETTY SURE MY TRUE CALLING IS NEARLY UPON ME...

MAYBE THAT FEELING OF BEING SHUNNED WAS PART OF YOUR TRAINING!

...BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOKS THEY GAVE ME...

FINALLY, I GOT THE GO-AHEAD FROM DAD TO CHANGE CAREERS...

THAT'S TRUE... SOME VERY UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES...

THAT'S A LOT OF MEMORIES OF JOSEPH-SAN AND MARY-SAN.

BUT IT DID MEAN THAT YOU GOT TO SPEND THIRTY YEARS WITH YOUR WORLDLY FAMILY...

...GROWING DARK WITH SUSPICION AS THE YEARS PASSED...

If you're not my son...

...then what does that make me?

...and you're not the son of God...

MEMORIES OF MY FATHER JOSEPH'S EYES...

...AND BUILDING EVER BIGGER PROJECTS...

HE THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS CARPENTRY, TRYING TO SHAKE OFF SOME HORRIBLE IDEA...

THAT'S GOT TO BE ABOUT THE MOST BEWILDERING POSITION A PERSON COULD BE IN, I IMAGINE...

...TO SOME BIRDS THAT WERE UNWITTINGLY RAISING A CUCKOO'S EGG...

BUT WHAT WAS THE HARDEST FOR ME TO WATCH WAS WHEN HE STARTED TALKING...

I BET YOU WERE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION AT ALL TIMES!

REALLY? BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY SON OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, RIGHT?!

I SUPPOSE I CAN RELATE TO HAVING AN AWKWARD RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE'S FATHER, THOUGH...

...FOR NOW...

WOW, SHE'S VERY PRETTY!

LOOK AT THIS DANCER! I HIRED HER JUST FOR YOU!

YES, I HAD A VERY PAMPERED CHILD-HOOD...

...FOR NOW...

WOW, IT'S VERY STUNNING!

LOOK AT THIS PALACE! I HAD IT BUILT JUST FOR YOU!

HEY, YOU GUYS! COME ON OVER HERE!!

AND IT WAS A SIGN OF YOUR PURITY OF SPIRIT!

YOU WERE THE KIND OF CHILD THAT EVEN JUDAS WOULD WANT TO HUG AND CHEER UP!!

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

You've got to be positive!!

He all die in the end...

...I DON'T THINK I WAS A VERY APPRECIATIVE CHILD...

THAT'S INCREDIBLE. IT LOOKS REALLY OLD.

WHOA! SAMURAI ARMOR!!

DADDY BOUGHT THIS, JUST FOR ME!

ABOUT THE ONLY GENERAL I WOULD KNOW IS AMAKUSA SHIRÔ...

WHOSE IS IT? DO YOU KNOW?

IT'S THE SAME ARMOR THAT DADDY'S FAVORITE GENERAL WORE!!

See? I'm using it! Thanks for the gift!

WHEN I USED IT AS AN ENTRYWAY DOORMAT, HE BAWLED HIS EYES OUT...

RUB

RUB

RUB

WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING THAT HURTS THE BOTH OF YOU LIKE THAT?!

HE EVEN BROUGHT SOME SOUVENIRS UP TO HEAVEN WITH HIM.

HE WAS A VERY NICE BOY.

FROM THE SHIMA-BARA REBEL-LION ...?

...

I SEE...

..."I NEVER STEPPED ON YOUR LIKENESS."

HE HANDED ME A *FUMI-E* PICTURE, LOOKED ME IN THE EYE, AND SAID...

THAT'S TRUE. IF YOU TOLD ME THIS WAS A SEA ANGEL, I'D BELIEVE YOU.

SWING

I thought it was the Glico runner!

IT'S BEEN SO STOMPED OVER, I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ME...

I MEAN, WHEN YOU CALL IT A "STEP-ON PICTURE," I'M BOUND TO BE CONFUSED ...

KIDS REALLY DO LOVE JESUS...

THE BLADE OF MY AGAPE IS ALL-POWER-FUL!

YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A GO?

SWISH

TASTE MY SWORD!!

OKAY, MISTER, LET'S FIGHT!

HA HA HA. ACTUALLY, I *AM* A MARRIED FATHER.

YOU OUGHT TO GET MARRIED AND HAVE SOME KIDS TO PUT YOUR PARENTS AT EASE.

THIS IS A CRUCIAL STEP TO EN-LIGHT-ENMENT ...

IT'S NOT THAT I *RAN OUT*, I *RENOUNCED!*

WHAT? NO, YOU MIS-UNDER-STAND!

WITH A NEW-BORN CHILD, TO BOOT!

YOU RAN OUT ON THEM ?!

NO. BUT I DO FEEL THE PAIN OF SEPARATION FROM MY LOVED ONES...

DID YOU... GET A DIVORCE?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?!

...UM...

THE ENLIGHTENED ONE FELT A MOMENTARY CLOUD OVER HIS HEART.

N-NO, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! THEY *ARE* DIFFERENT... I THINK!

...

HUH?!

TOO SOON?! IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!!

BUT IT'S TOO SOON TO...

HUH?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING PLAYING WITH MY GRANDSON, THEN?!

CALL YOUR BOY HERE, RIGHT NOW!!

AAAH! MATSUDA-SAN'S REALLY GOOD WITH TECH!!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

UM, RAHULA...

GIVE ME YOUR PHONE!!

WHAT'S YOUR SON'S NAME?!

F...

FATHER, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!!

WHAT IS IT THAT MADE YOU CALL ME TO—

ONE HOUR LATER ...

AAAH! R-RAHULA?! S-SORRY TO CALL OUT OF NOWHERE...

THERE, HE PICKED UP.

I FORGOT THAT SHE'S A MARIO KART WHIZ, FOR A GRANDMA ...

BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN HE GETS HERE...?

DON'T WORRY. I'LL LEND YOU SOMETHING TO HELP...

H...HE'S GOING TO COME HERE.

...HOW DID IT GO?

BEEP

HE SAYS IT'S A ONE-HOUR TRIP, NOW THAT THEY HAVE THAT JACOB'S LADDER STRAIGHT TO TACHIKAWA.

...PLAY CATCH.

UH, I WAS THINKING WE COULD... Y'KNOW...

W-WELL, HERE GOES...

THIS ONE'S YOURS, RAHULA-KUN...

YOU WERE TEACHING ME THAT MY YOUTHFUL LIES WERE JUST LIKE THAT DIRTIED WATER.

IN THE PAST, YOU ASKED IF I WOULD DRINK THE WATER I WASHED YOUR FEET WITH.

I BELIEVE THAT I AM OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEANT...

Got it...

There we go.

WHEEZE

Th... there...

WHEEZE

Got it!

I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU HAVE SOME DEEP MEANING BEHIND THIS.

IT'S TIRING FOR ME, TOO...

BUT I'M AFRAID I AM TOO MUCH OF A NOVICE TO UNDER-STAND!!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WANT TO STOP? SHOULD WE DO KOANS?!

PLEASE, FATHER, CAN WE STOP?!

KRIK

WOMP

PLAY

UM, ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE THAT YOU *DO* UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEANT!!

TO ME, THE WATER THAT CLEANSED YOUR HOLY FEET IS ITSELF HOLY WATER BY VIRTUE OF THAT CONTACT!!

BUT ACTUALLY, I *WOULD* DRINK IT NOW!!

I DON'T THINK EVEN MATSUDA-SAN KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS!!!

THAT'S FINE, I DON'T GET IT EITHER!!

BUT... I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TEACH ME BY PLAYING CATCH!

I-IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!

DID RAHULA JUST INSINUATE THAT I'M CRAZY?!

YOU SEE... I WAS SO FULL OF MYSELF THAT...

...BUT IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MY INNATE ARROGANCE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERCOME?

I THINK I'VE CURED MY HABIT OF LYING...

NO! I'M EVEN CRAZIER!!

You're fine...

HIS FIRST WORDS AFTER BIRTH WERE "HOLY AM I, ALONE THROUGHOUT HEAVEN AND EARTH"!

OH, PLEASE, YOUR DAD IS WAY WORSE!

...SO I STUCK AROUND IN THE WOMB FOR SIX YEARS...

Should I come out now...?! No, I can wait a bit longer!! Gotta keep 'em hungry!!

Hee hee... What pose should I make when I emerge...?

...I THOUGHT A TRUE STAR IS ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO SHOW UP LATE...

IF ANYTHING, THAT KIND OF TALENT FOR THE STAGE IS INCREDIBLE FOR A FETUS!

MATSUDA

I WISH I COULD GO BACK AND PUNCH MY SMUG NEWBORN FACE!!

Y-YOU'RE WRONG, RAHULA!

HEY, NO...

Ahhh!

I AM DIRTY WATER, AFTER ALL!!

BUT THE TRUTH IS, I WAS MEANT TO SLEEP IN THE TOILET...

I SUPPOSE I TOOK FOR GRANTED MY STATUS AS THE CHILD OF THE ENLIGHTENED ONE...

I AM SO TERRIBLY SORRY THAT I WAS BORN...

THAT'S NOT MY POINT!

...I NAMED YOU THE WORD FOR "IMPEDIMENT" BECAUSE YOU WERE THE GREATEST OBSTACLE TO LEAVING!

WHEN I GAVE YOU YOUR NAME ...

...AND FELL PREY TO THE ILLUSION THAT I WAS SPECIAL, AND DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE...

PLEASE, DON'T PUT YOURSELF DOWN SO LOW!

I MEAN THAT YOU WERE SO SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT TO ME THAT IT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO LEAVE, OF COURSE!

FATHER...!

F...

WHAT?! WHY?! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO GET ALONG WITH RAHULA...

THAT'S RIGHT, JESUS-SAMA, YOU DON'T NEED THAT TRAINING...

NO... NO, I THINK I *DO*...

UH, IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO INTO THE BATH-ROOM...

LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER !!

NO, RAHULA-KUN. TODAY, *I'LL* EAT ON THE TOILET...

OH, MATSUDA-SAN.

THANKS FOR THE GLOVES.

EEP!!

I'M NOT WORTHY OF THIS!!

WOW, LOOK, JESUS! IT'S BAMBOO SHOOTS WITH RICE!

HERE, YOU TAKE THIS.

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW OLD YOUR SON WAS...

UM... YEAH...

...EVERY TIME I MAKE A STATEMENT, I HAVE TO BRING UP THAT I'M DAD'S SON...

AFTER ALL...

YOU MUSTN'T, JESUS-SAMA!

NO, JESUS, YOU DON'T...

I NEED TO HUMBLE MYSELF. I'LL BE THE GOD OF THE TOILET FOR A WHILE!!

IT'S MY WHOLE EPITHET. "JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD"...

GO

JUST APOLO-GIZE TO HIM, JESUS! SAY YOU'RE SORRY!!

TURN OFF THE HEATED TOILET SEAT. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR TRAINING. AND NO PLEASURES SUCH AS MANGA...

YOU SHOULDN'T TREAD ON THE HOLY GROUND OF OTHERS.

SOME PEOPLE WILL BE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT THE SMELL.

AND DO NOT GO INSIDE RIGHT AFTER IT'S BEEN USED.

JESUS...

WHEN YOU BORROW THE ONLY TOILET IN THE HOUSE, YOU MUST ALWAYS LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN...

...SO THAT YOU MAY QUICKLY EXIT IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO USE IT.

EVEN DISCIPLINING ONESELF IN THE BATHROOM HAS RULES.

Maybe it's because he was in the womb for six years...
NC
Oh...
It's strange...
I feel relaxed in dark, enclosed spaces.

CHAPTER 48 TRANSLATION NOTES

Pesach,
The Hebrew name for the holiday of Passover, in which God's "passing over" of the Hebrews during the Ten Plagues of Egypt is celebrated.

Ichthys,
The early Christian symbol of the fish, dating back to the 2nd century CE. The letters sometimes seen inside it are the first letters of the Greek words that mean "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."

Sudatta,
One of Gautama Buddha's disciples. Sudatta was born into a wealthy family and was known for his great charity to the needy. He built Jetavana Monastery, one of the chief temples dedicated to the Buddha, and fed all of the monks who stayed there. He was also known by the name Anathapindika.

Ultraman,
A famous *tokusatsu* live action hero who fights against giant monsters that threaten the Earth. A team called the Science Patrol is supposed to fight the monsters, but one of them is secretly an alien named Ultraman who must transform into a giant warrior to save the day without blowing his cover to the rest of the patrol.

Amakusa Shirô,
The young leader of the failed Shimabara Rebellion, an uprising of Japanese Catholics against the Shogunate in 1638, in response to increasing persecution of Christians. *Fumi-e*, or "step-on pictures," were likenesses of Jesus or Mary that were used as a test to identify potential Christians; to step on one's picture would be such a grave insult that no true Christian could do it, it was said. In the aftermath of the rebellion, all European missionaries were expelled from Japan, and the seclusion policy was tightened up until the 1850s.

Glico,
Glico is a Japanese food manufacturer. Its logo mascot is a man in a track and field outfit raising his arms with triumph. Its huge illuminated sign in the Dôtonbori area of Osaka is a landmark of the city.

Zen koan,
A form of Zen dialogue that is meant to test a pupil's understanding of Zen Buddhist thought, using allusion and indirect analogy to provoke doubt or intuitive thinking.

Rahula's birth,
In one tradition of the story of Rahula, he was conceived on the night that Siddhartha Gautama renounced his throne, and born on the night that he achieved enlightenment six years later.

OH, ABRAHAM-SAN SENT SOMETHING DOWN TO ME THIS YEAR!

OCHUGEN

ABRAHAM

THE TRADITIONAL MIDSUMMER GIFT CALLED OCHUGEN...

..IS MEANT TO REMIND YOU OF THE SENDER'S SMILE.

SO YOUR DAD ACCEPTS *OCHUGEN* GIFTS IN THE SUMMER, HUH?

"HAM"... ABRAHAM...

Will it fit in the fridge?

Whoa.

HE ALWAYS GIVES A HAM TO DAD EVERY SUMMER.

AT TIMES, THEY'VE BEEN SO FANCY THAT HE HAD TO REFUSE TO TAKE THEM.

Ah, it'll fit.

ESPECIALLY OVER THESE EXPENSIVE ITEMS...

OH, YEAH, HE SAID THAT ONCE...

WOULDN'T HE GET TONS OF THEM? SOUNDS LIKE A LOT TO DEAL WITH.

WHAT, IT'S NOT HAM?

ESPECIALLY FROM ABRAHAM-SAN...

NO, THE MEAT HE SENT WAS FAR TOO DELUXE...

HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET

REALLY, THE PRAYERS ARE ALL HE NEEDS.

HANG ON!! ARE YOU SURE THAT'S HAM?!

UH, W-WAIT, ABRA... STOP, ABE, I DON'T NEED IT!!

Just for you...

IT'S WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SEND HIS OWN SON, ISAAC-KUN...

...THAT DAD FINALLY PANICKED AND BIT HIS TONGUE...

WASABI

MUSTARD

MILK

ABRAHAM

JESUS' SHIRT: HOSANNA

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 49

Healthy Summer Correspondence

ISAAC-SAN IS JUST FINE.

HA HA HA, DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST GOAT.

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST MAKING A STUPID PUN ON HIS NAME, BUT ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT'S REALLY-?!

WE'LL BE GETTING A GIFT FROM THE DEVAS, TOO.

YES, IT JUST KEEPS PILING UP...

CLUNK

SUJATTA'S MILK-RICE PORRIDGE

AND YOU'VE GOT EVEN MORE MILK-RICE PORRIDGE FROM SUJATA-SAN.

SOMETHING THAT'S NOT PHYSICAL...

OOH... CAN I SEE THEM?

SO, AN ANGELIC CHORUS, OR A BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW...?

Here, this one.

OOH, THAT SOUNDS FUN!

THEY SAY WE CAN JUST CHOOSE FROM THE CATALOG.

OH, I HAD NO IDEA...

THE GIFTS FROM THE DEVAS AREN'T PHYSICAL...

...THEY'RE PRESENTS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL SPIRITUALLY FULFILLED.

I don't remember, did we get some-thing?

WAIT, WHAT DID YOU ASK FOR LAST YEAR?

AND WE CAN PICK ANY-THING IN THERE?

ACTUALLY ...

IN THE PAST I ONLY HAD BAD OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, BUT...

...THEY'VE ACTUALLY HAD SOME DECENT CHOICES LATELY.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ORDEAL CATALOGUE

Ordeal Catalogue

...HUH...?

TH-THERE'S A *SEPARATED BY DEATH* CATEGORY?!

...BUT I'M THINKING OF MAYBE THIS ONE...

I COULDN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN THE "HEAVILY INJURED" OR "SOCIALLY SHUNNED" CATEGORY...

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: AHIMSA

NO! I WISH I HAD INTERCEPTED YOUR POSTCARD AND TORN IT TO PIECES!!

Sorry, I already sent it in!

OH, I'M SORRY! DID YOU WANT TO CHOOSE WITH ME?!

BUDDHA COOLS OFF IN THE SUMMER SEASON BY WATCHING LOTS OF HORROR MOVIES.

UH, YEAH. BUT IN YEARS WHERE THERE WEREN'T ANY GOOD OPTIONS, I DIDN'T WRITE BACK...

You wouldn't?

I WOULD NEVER WRITE IN WITH A CHOICE!

DID YOU ACTUALLY PICK ONE OF THEM?!

JESUS COOLS OFF IN THE SUMMER SEASON BY EATING LOTS OF ICE CREAM.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A CURSED CATALOGUE TO ME!!

Donate it to a shrine!!

The really subtly nasty ones...

...THEY'D JUST SEND ME WHATEVER UNPOPULAR ORDEAL WAS STILL LEFT OVER.

THEN, HALF A YEAR LATER, ONCE THE POSTCARD SUBMISSION PERIOD WAS OVER...

Aniki!!

H-HELLO? SPEAKING...

HUH?

AH, IT'S FROM RYUJI-SAN...

IS THAT YOUR PHONE, JESUS?

I HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS HAPPENING EVERY YEAR...

He says that with our address, his car GPS will get him here.

Does he even know how to get here?!

WE'VE BEEN SLACKING OFF BECAUSE OF THE HEAT...

BUT WE NEED TO VACUUM!

IS HE COMING RIGHT NOW?!

HA HA! BUT, YOU KNOW...

THEY'RE COMING HERE? NOW?

JUST TO DELIVER AN OCHUGEN?!

THIS IS THE VERY FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD A FRIEND FROM THE MORTAL REALM COME OVER TO OUR HOME.

Here's our address, and... send.

I THINK IT'S A WONDERFUL THING...

YEAH. SHE'S NOT A GUEST, SHE'S A FORCE OF NATURE.

AND I'D SAY THAT MATSUDA-SAN DOESN'T COUNT AS A VISITOR, SHE'S MORE LIKE AN INVADER.

BESIDES, WHEN YOU GET SHOWERED WITH HOSPI-TALITY...

NO, HE SAYS HE'LL ONLY BE HERE A MINUTE.

I WONDER IF THERE ARE SOME SPECIAL JAPANESE RULES ABOUT THAT. I'D HATE TO BE RUDE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHOULD WE PREPARE SOME FOOD?

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S A FIRST FOR US...

WE'D BETTER DO OUR BEST TO BE GOOD HOSTS!

...IT MAKES YOU WONDER, "HANG ON, IS SOMEONE ABOUT TO KILL ME?"

YEAH, IT'S EXCITING!

YES!

SO LET'S JUST KEEP IT TO A POT OF TEA!!

I nearly break down in tears when they throw me a parade!!

I totally get that!!

...EXACTLY! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY SET UP A NICE DINNER!!

...BUT WHEN YOU ACT WITH TRUE SINCERITY TOWARDS ANOTHER, THE MESSAGE ALWAYS GETS ACROSS!

OUR CULTURES MIGHT BE DIFFER-ENT...

PLUS, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT MANNERS...

ANIKI! I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR CAUTION!

I'VE...

AH, RYUJI-SAN...

OH, HANG ON. BEFORE YOU COME INSIDE...

DING DONG

YEAH!

IT SAYS, "WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST, IN OUR OWN WAY!"

AH!

HE'S TOO IMPORTANT TO SIMPLY WELCOME RANDOM PEOPLE INTO HIS OWN HOME!!

I SEE. THIS MUST BE AN SEPARATE PLACE HE USES TO CLOSE DEALS, RIGHT...?

THUMP THUMP

Too soon!

Aah!

THUNK

A MAN OF ANIKI'S STATURE, STAYING IN A DUMP LIKE THIS...?

BLUP

BLUP

BLUP...

KNOW THAT AT ALL TIMES...

YOU HAVE NOW BEEN ANOINTED BY THE OIL OF THE FATHER. COME INSIDE...

RYUJI-SAN A YAKUZA WHO THINKS JESUS IS THE HEIR TO ANOTHER GANG. COOLS OFF IN THE SUMMER SEASON BY REMEMBERING THE CLOSE CALLS HE'S SURVIVED.

RYUJI SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE GAS STOVE NEARBY FILLED HIM WITH TERROR.

...AND HE'LL LIGHT ME ON FIRE!!

ONE WRONG MOVE...

...!!!

...DAD IS KEEPING HIS WATCHFUL EYE UPON YOU...

...I WAS DELIGHTED BY THE SINCERITY OF HER GESTURE...

From behind?! While we're eating?! Wild!!

You're just dumping it straight onto his head?!

My disciples were freaked out...

HEALTHY OIL

WHEN MARY-CHAN OF MAGDALENE POURED EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE OILS ONTO MY HEAD...

I'M...I'M FLOORED, ANIKIS...

S-SORRY, ARE YOU MAD?!

ヒノ EEP

じっ... HMM...

And we bought it at full price, not on sale or anything...

AND THAT'S THE BEST OIL WE HAVE IN THE HOUSE. IT'S HEALTHY AND FRIES UP REAL GOOD...

DID HE JUST SAY MY FEET NEED TO BE WASHED CLEAN?

WH... WHAT?!

MEANING, HE WANTS TO BECOME A TRUE BELIEVER OF MINE?!

I THINK... I'VE FINALLY MADE UP MY MIND...

DRIP DRIP

YOU'RE SIMPLY BEYOND ME, AT EVERY LEVEL...

I MUST ADMIT DEFEAT...

IT NEEDS TO BE WASHED CLEAN, ALL OF IT...

SWISH

OH? ABOUT WHAT?

THE TRUTH IS...

IT AIN'T EASY TO REMOVE A TATTOO LIKE THIS ...

YES, I KNOW THAT...

SWISH

YOU ALREADY HAVE A BUDDHA DRAWN ON YOUR BACK!!

B-BUT NO! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

...BUT I GOTTA DO IT...FOR MY WIFE AND CHILD!

...AND IT AIN'T EASY TO WASH CLEAN THE GRIME OF THIS WORLD...

SO...YOUR OLD MAN DEMANDED THAT HE LOSE HIS FINGERS IN APOLOGY...?

Huh?

Huh?

ONE OF OUR PEOPLE UNDERWENT THE SAME THING...

KIND OF. IN OUR CASE...

HUH...? I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU, ANIKI...

UH, IF YOU WANT TO WASH MY FEET, SIMPLE WATER WILL DO, IT'S EASY...

I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANS...

AND I KNOW THAT I'LL HAVE TO LOSE A FEW FINGERS TO DO IT!

...AND TURNED THEM INTO NECKLACES...

A handsome guy burdened by a dark past. Like a Final Fantasy protagonist...

...THE GUY COLLECTED 99 FINGERS...

YEAH. HIS NAME WAS ANGULIMALA... HE HEARD A LIE THAT COLLECTING 100 FINGERS WOULD ALLOW HIM TO REACH ENLIGHTENMENT...

REALLY? THAT SOUNDS FREAKY.

...INTO NECK-LACES?!

HOW DID YOU GET YOURSELF OUT OF TROUBLE ...?

OH, I JUST DID WHAT I ALWAYS DO...

Aaaah!!

One more to complete the quest!

I NEARLY LOST A FINGER IN THAT ORDEAL MYSELF...

R-REALLY?! YOU DID?!

BUT, ANIKI...

I ALWAYS FIGURED THEIR BOSS WAS OVER THE TOP, BUT...

YOUR GANG SOUNDS LIKE A NIGHTMARE ...!!

...AND THEN HE BECAME MY DISCIPLE.

I GAVE HIM A LITTLE SCOLDING...

...IF I MANAGE TO GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS CLAN...

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR! FINGER NECKLACES ARE IN SUCH POOR TASTE, IF YOU ASK ME.

THE TRUTH IS, HE WAS A VERY GOOD BOY AT HEART.

BUDDHA'S "RECRUIT FOLLOWER" COMMAND IS UN-STOPPABLE.

HUH? WHOA! YOUR BUDDHA BROMIDE IS GETTING ALL POWERED UP!!

...I WILL JOIN YOURS FOR LIFE!!

UM, IT'S FINE! YOU BROUGHT US AN OCHUGEN, WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE!!

I'LL DO ANYTHING! JUST SAY WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE ME DO!!

HMM...?

THEN YOU CAN COME BACK TO VISIT AGAIN, THAT'S FINE...

NO! THIS PALTRY GIFT DOES NOTHING TO EXPRESS HOW I TRULY FEEL!

WHAT'S SOMETHING I'VE GIVEN AWAY BEFORE AND GOTTEN A GOOD REACTION FOR IT...?

I CAN'T RE-GIFT THIS MILK-RICE PORRIDGE ...

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN GIVE HIM TO TAKE HOME IN RETURN?!

HANG ON! THAT'S A BOX OF YÔKAN SWEETS FROM TORAYA!!

TORAY

LOOK, I'LL DO ANYTHING AT ALL...

...HE WAS SO HAPPY, HE USED IT UNTIL HIS DEATH...

UM, RYUJI-SAN!

!!

YES! THIS SHOULD DO IT...

WHEN I GAVE THIS TO MY DISCIPLE, MAHAKA-SHYAPA...

C-CAN WE REALLY ACCEPT SUCH AN EXPENSIVE GIFT?!

THEY'RE SIMPLY CLOTHES OF MINE...

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE THESE...

南無

SHIRT: NAMUSAN

...I UNDERSTAND, SIR...

"TUG..."

B-BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM, THAT'S ALL RIGHT...

I GAVE SOME TO A DISCIPLE OF MINE ONCE, AND HE WORE THEM UNTIL HIS DEATH...

AFTER HE LEFT, RYUJI-SAN HEADED STRAIGHT TO A BARBER TO GET HIS HAIR PERMED AND CURLED.

He's wearing them!

FWAP

南無

SHUNK

...TO FULFILL THIS ROLE YOU ASK OF ME!!

YOU NEED A BODY DOUBLE? THEN I WILL GIVE MY LIFE...

...BUT IT FEELS LIKE WE WERE PROPER HOSTS...

WELL, THAT WAS OUR FIRST VISITOR TO THE APARTMENT...

HA HA HA. I HOPE HE COMES BACK TO HANG OUT AGAIN...

Tasty...

HE WAS REALLY HAPPY!

IT WAS FINE! HE EVEN CHANGED INTO YOUR CLOTHES BEFORE HE LEFT...

YOU DID? AND DID THEY LIKE IT?!

ACTUALLY, I USED KAMO-MAIL TO REPLY TO EVERYONE WHO SENT OCHUGEN LAST YEAR TO THANK THEM...

Go on! Go on!

YES... BUT THE PROBLEM IS...

GOOD POINT, BUT THERE'S NO END TO THE PEOPLE TO WHOM WE OWE A DEBT.

Like proper adults...

BY THE WAY, DO YOU THINK *WE* SHOULD GET IT TOGETHER AND SEND OCHUGEN, TOO?

HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET

HOW ABOUT SENDING CARDS?

THEY'VE GOT THAT KAMO-MAIL SERVICE FOR IT!

TRUE, BUT IT JUST NEEDS TO BE A SIGN OF OUR APPRECIA-TION...

BUT WE'RE BARELY SCRAPING BY AS IT IS...

OH! HERE'S AN IDEA!

...WON THE ¥50,000 IN CASH FROM THE LOTTERY...

...EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM...

...AH... WELL...

...AND I FELT VERY CRASS ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...

IT WAS LIKE I WAS HANDING OUT MONEY...

...RYUJI-SAN GOT A NEW LOOK FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

THE EARS ARE THE PROBLEM...

Nice...

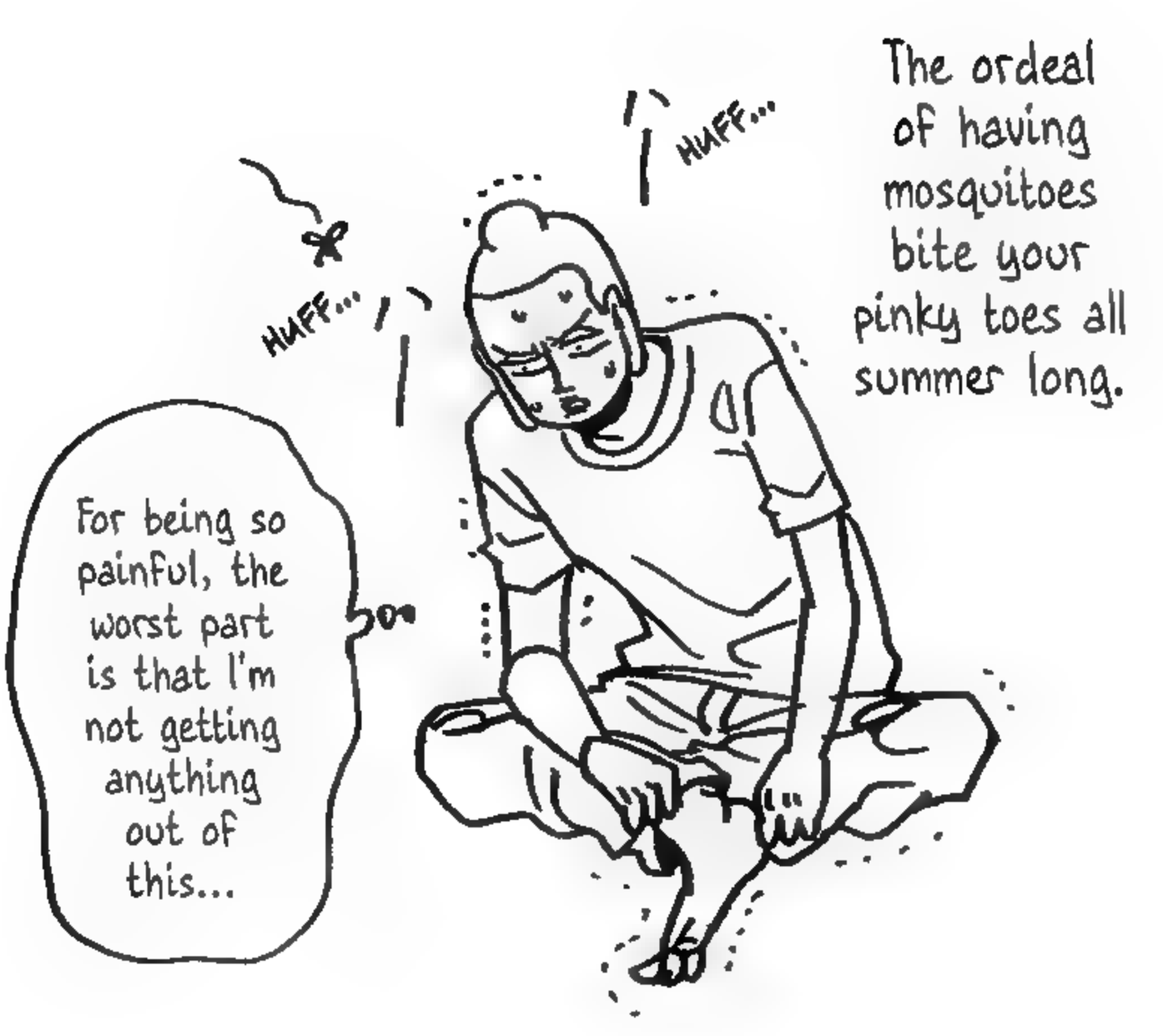
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SIR?

AND THIS IS HOW...

I HOPE SO...

I'M SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE PUTTING TOO MUCH INTO THEIR GIFTS...

BUT IT'S PROBABLY BETTER NOT TO SEND THE ONES WITH LOTTERY NUMBERS, ANYWAY.


HUFF...
HUFF...
The ordeal of having mosquitoes bite your pinky toes all summer long.
For being so painful, the worst part is that I'm not getting anything out of this...

CHAPTER 49 TRANSLATION NOTES

Hosanna,
A religious word that comes from a Hebrew term for "save." In a Christian context it appears as a word of praise in recognition of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Ahimsa,
The virtue of nonviolence observed in several South Asian religions, including Buddhism. A central facet of Ahimsa is that harming others harms oneself due to its karmic effects.

Anointing,
To baptize a person with fragrant oils, or "anoint" them, is the greatest of honors. The Greek word *christos* means "anointed one," and is the root for the title of Christ.

"Dad,"
Yakuza hierarchies are based loosely on a family concept, and the titles with which they refer to each other reflect that. The boss is the *oyaji*, or "Dad," while the rank and file are his "sons." Any member speaking to a senior within the group will usually call him *aniki*, which means "older brother."

Feet washing,
The phrase “to wash one’s feet” in Japanese means to give up a life of crime, however this is also a custom of humility and commitment to Jesus Christ as an object of veneration, as related in John 13:1.

Angulimala,
A brigand who collected fingers before he met the Buddha and became a follower, reforming himself. According to the story, Angulimala's old teacher tried to get rid of him by claiming that finding human fingers (the story ranges from 100 to 1,000) would bring him enlightenment. When the Buddha convinces him before he can kill his very last victim, he demonstrates that anyone can change their life for the better.

Yôkan,
A traditional dessert made of an (red bean paste) solidified with agar and sugar. It's presented in neat little cubes that can be easily picked up and eaten with a toothpick. The kind mentioned here is mizu-yôkan, or "water yôkan" which is made with extra water and can be served chilled in the summer.

Mahakashyapa,
One of the principal disciples of the Buddha and a foremost teacher of his ascetic practices. The Buddha exchanged robes with him to symbolize his passing off of the teachings after death. Later, at the end of his own life, Mahakashyapa wore the Buddha's robe to receive his final alms.

Kamo-mail,
A special summer-season service offered by the Japan Post exclusively for traditional summer greeting cards known as *shochu-mimai* (greetings during summer heat) or *zansho-mimai* (greetings during lingering heat) depending on whether they're sent in the late July to early August period, or later in the summer. Kamo-mail postcards have serial numbers on them that will later be entered into a lottery that is drawn in September.

...WHEN THE HUMID RAINS CASCADE UPON THE DRIED EARTH.

SUMMER IS THE SEASON OF ABUNDANT LIFE...

OH BOY, A TYPHOON...

H

T

...AND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE LANDFALL IN THE KANTO REGION THIS EVENING.

THE TYPHOON STARTED IN THE EAST CHINA SEA...

JESUS' SHIRT: PRODIGAL SON

ACTUALLY, I'M THINKING OF WHEN THE POND WAS FROZEN OVER IN THE WINTER...

THAT'S RATHER ARTISTIC!

THEY DO LOOK LIKE RIPPLES IN WATER, DON'T THEY?

IT REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS...

FSHHH

THEY'RE STILL A LITTLE NERVE-WRACKING, BECAUSE I NEVER HAD ANY WHERE I LIVED...

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: SHAKYAMUNI

...REMIND ME OF LOOKING DOWN ON THE MORTAL WORLD FROM THE POND OF THE HEAVENS...

THESE WEATHER CHARTS ...

OH?

OH, RIGHT. TYPHOONS ARE OLD NEWS IN INDIA...

NO, I WAS THINKING OF THE HEAVENS.

Ooh, I can even zoom in!

I COULD USE MY FINGERTIPS TO SMEAR THE IMAGE OF THE EARTH BELOW...

WHAT?! YOUR POND IS A TOUCH-SCREEN?!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 50

Take On the Typhoon!

AT ANY RATE, IT LOOKS LIKE WE SHOULDN'T BE GOING OUTSIDE TOMORROW...

NO WONDER YOU'RE NOT THAT EXCITED ABOUT SMARTPHONES, BUDDHA...

NOT ONLY DID THAT NOT WORK, USUALLY IT WOULD COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

WHY IS THAT? DID YOU SING, "RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY"?

SO I'M USED TO THIS...

ACTUALLY, MY RELIGION FORBIDS US FROM GOING OUTSIDE IN THE RAINY SEASON.

?!

SHWUMP

WH-WHAT DID YOU FIND, BUDDHA?!

SO I'LL FOLLOW THAT PRACTICE TODAY AND STAY–

IT MEANS "YOU MUST NOT TAKE ANY LIFE."

NO, IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR PRACTICE OF AHIMSA...

R-REALLY? BREAKING YOUR VOWS?!

I MUST LEAVE AFTER ALL, JESUS...

HUH...? WHAT'S THAT...?

THAT'S GOT TO BE TOUGH IF YOU CAN'T CHEAT THE GAME AND FLOAT IN MID-AIR, LIKE YOU.

...WALKING WITHOUT STEPPING ON THEM ENTERS ULTRA-EXTREME DIFFICULTY MODE.

WHEN ALL THE BUGS AND CRITTERS COME OUT IN THE RAINY SEASON ...

HANG ON, ARE THOSE...

I'm gonna squish them!

I can't do it!

SWARM

SWARM

しゃか

...THAT ARE DUE BACK TODAY!!

...SOME RENTAL DVDS FROM TSUTAYA...

TSUTAYA

TSUTAYA

COMBINED WITH THE ORIGINAL RENTAL FEE, THAT'S ¥1,480!!

THE LATE FEE FOR ONE IS ¥320, TIMES TWO IS ¥640...

AND THERE ARE TWO OF THEM!

I COM-PLETELY FORGOT!!

WHY DID I BORROW VOLUMES 1 AND 2 TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME?!

BUT THESE ARE ACTUALLY BETTER FOR ASCETIC TRAINING THAN ANYTHING!!

WELL, NO. 3 WAS ALREADY OUT, SO YOU PROBABLY FIGURED THE FIRST TWO WOULD BE A GOOD WATCH...

...

IT'S STILL CHEAPER THAN BUYING THE DVDS...

MRMR...

MAYBE IF I *WANTED* TO BUY THESE DVDS...

B-BUT THE RAIN'S COMING DOWN PRETTY HARD ALREADY...

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY!

IT COULD BE DANGEROUS TO GO OUTSIDE NOW!

JESUS...

C'MON! BEFORE THE RAIN GETS TOO HEAVY!

ACTUALLY, SINCE I WAS RAISED IN A REGION WITHOUT MUCH RAIN...

...I REALLY ENJOY WALKING WITH AN UMBRELLA.

WHAT? NO, YOU DON'T NEED TO TRUDGE THROUGH THE RAIN, TOO!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO WITH YOU ...

WE SHOULD BE SAFE TO-GETHER.

MY SNEAKERS ARE GOING TO GET DRENCHED.

THERE'S A HUGE PUDDLE OUT THERE!

IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN!

THE RAIN

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUDDHA...

YOU CAN'T JUST WISH FOR EVERY-THING.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN *NOT* HAVING THINGS IS AN ADVANTAGE...

IF ONLY WE HAD RAIN-COATS...

BUT THE RAIN'S SWEEPING IN SIDE-WAYS...

OH, COME ON, JESUS...

HA HA, WE'LL BE FINE WITHOUT THEM.

IF WE HAD GALOSHES LIKE THAT KID...

GREAT IDEA, BUDDHA!!

IT WON'T MATTER IF THESE GET WET!

LET'S JUST WEAR OUR SANDALS TODAY.

...THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING FOR THE RAIN TO RUIN.

AFTER ALL, IF YOU DON'T WEAR ANYTHING...

WE CAN JUST PUT THE DVDS IN A PLASTIC BAG...

IN FACT, THEN YOU DON'T EVEN NEED AN UMBRELLA, DO YOU?

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANY MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLES ASIDE FROM SUBTRACTION?

AND THE RAIN WILL BE OUR SHOWER. THAT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...

JESUS

MY FAVORITE KANJI THESE DAYS IS 麓 (FOOTHILLS). HOW DOES IT LOOK SO FIRM AND MASSIVE?

RETURNING TWO OLDER DVDS IN THE SERIES?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIRS...

¥CASHER

SIGN UP FREE

NEW TV DRAMA ¥3980

¥3980

WE HARDLY EVEN GOT WET...

AND THAT WE GOT HERE BEFORE THE RAIN REALLY PICKED UP.

Whew...

OH, I'M SO GLAD I REMEMBERED TO RETURN THESE TODAY...

THANKS FOR COMING WITH ME, JESUS. LET'S HEAD BACK HO...

WE CAN'T EVEN HAVE INSUR-ANCE CARDS...

...SO WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN UP FOR TSUTAYA CARDS?

Before, we had to pony up the dough for every DVD...

THAT'S TRUE...

SOMETIMES I JUST LOOK AT THE CARD AND SMILE...

BORROW AGAIN

RETURN

BORROW

RETURN

BORROW AGAIN

...JESUS, WE NEED TO ESCAPE THE CYCLE OF RENTAL DVD SAMSARA!

It's an endless hell!!

BUT IT'S SO EXCITING...

しゃか

THAT, AND A RECEIPT FOR OUR WATER BILL PAYMENT DID THE TRICK.

-UAA- Society of Afterlife Realms

Buddha

Gautama Siddhartha

This card proves the above has reached Enlightenment

Card Entry UAA Afterlife Af... Heavenly O...

...ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS SHOW THEM OUR *UNITED AFTERLIFE ALLIANCE* SAINT IDS.

ONCE WE LEARNED A COMPANY ID WOULD WORK...

WELL, I GUESS WE CAN RENT MORE. WE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO DURING THIS TYPHOON...

WE CAN WATCH A NICE, QUIET MOVIE AND...

Sigh...

YEP. NOTHING MAKES YOU LOOK MORE IMPORTANT THAN THROWING AROUND A BUNCH OF LINGO.

Just waiting to reach nirvana.

Hmm!

The deuce, huh?

...BUT WE HELD OUR GROUND, AND IT WORKED.

THE GUY REALLY STARED US DOWN ...

B-BUT I REALLY WANTED TO SEE THAT ONE WHEN IT WAS IN THEATERS!

GO BACK WHERE YOU BELONG, MARA!!

SHUNK

IT'LL BE FINE! I'LL COME BACK THROUGH STORM AND RAIN TO RETURN IT, NO MATTER WHAT!

WHAT IF THE STORM HASN'T PASSED US BY?

WE'LL HAVE TO RETURN IT TO-MORROW. DO YOU REALIZE THAT?

NEW RELEASES

STAFF REC

NEW!

The Clam Who...

From (Mo... With La...

The otter told you!

"I'll be back...

...I'M GUESSING THAT ALL CUSTOMERS ARE GOING TO GET A 40-DAY EXTENSION ON THEIR RENTALS.

IF IT'S SO BAD THAT ONLY THAT METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION WILL DO...

I'LL EVEN BORROW NOAH-SAN'S ARK IF I HAVE TO!

HE WAS STUCK INSIDE THAT ARK FOR 40 DAYS OF THE STORM. HE'LL KNOW EXACTLY HOW WE FEEL!

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

AND THAT SHIP'S PROBABLY TOO IMPORTANT FOR ERRANDS LIKE RETURNING DVDS...

I THINK NOAH-SAN JUST REALLY LOVES ANIMALS.

HOW WOULD YOU NOT GET BORED OF IT, THOUGH?

WHEN DAD SAW HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 40 DAYS...

THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO FORGET THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

HE SAID HE PET ALL THE ANIMALS ENOUGH FOR AN ENTIRE LIFETIME...

Ahhh!

RUB

RUB

RUB

RUB

...HOW HE PASSED THE TIME?

IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH NOAH-SAN AND ASK HIM...

OH, I'VE ASKED HIM THAT QUESTION BEFORE.

放蕩息子

SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE EXPERIENCE MADE HIM NEUROTIC.

What is this pattern? Is it a soccer ball?! What's with the horns?! Why did they grow like that?! Is it receiving some kind of signal?! And this neck, it's clearly a prank gone wrong! Also, why did you make their jaws so ill-fitting when eating...

He seems lively...

...NOAH-SAN PEPPERED HIM WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GIRAFFE'S DESIGN FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A BAD JOKE...

...ARE YOU SURE IT HAS TO BE *THIS* ONE?

WELL, IF WE WERE GOING TO RENT A NEW MOVIE...

NEW RELEASES

...I'D PROBABLY FLIP OUT JUST LIKE THE DEVAS DID...

IF I WAS STUCK IN A ROOM WITH BUDDHA FOR 40 DAYS...

YOU KNOW WHAT? GOOD POINT. WORSHIP OF THE VIRGIN MARY PROBABLY COUNTS AS A SPINOFF...

LIKE MY MOM, FOR INSTANCE!

BUT IT'S A SPINOFF OF THAT GREAT *008* SIDE CHARACTER ...

...THE FAMOUS OTTER!!

Quantum of Cockleshells

IT'S GIVING OFF DUD VIBES TO ME...

THAT'S NOT TRUE! THERE ARE EXAMPLES OF GOOD SPINOFFS!

And I liked the otter, so I'd be even more disappointed if it's bad.

BUT SPINOFFS ARE USUALLY BAD. IT'S JUST A GENERAL FACT...

しゃかむに

DON'T WORRY, THIS IS SOMEONE WITH EXTREMELY FAIR JUDGMENT.

MAYBE THAT PERSON AND I HAVE DIFFERENT TASTES...

WH.. WHAT?!

B-BUT MOVIES ARE A SUBJECTIVE THING!

...HOW THIS ONE TURNED OUT...

FINE, FINE... I'LL ASK ONE OF MY MOVIE-LOVING FRIENDS ...

Don't wanna rent two duds in a row.

...BUT EVEN I GET COMMENTS ON MY REVIEW BLOG FROM PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE!

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS... I HAVE A REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS...

HUH ?!

WHAT WAS ALL OF THAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? AVERAGE OF *WHAT?*

...THEY GAVE IT AN AVERAGE OF FOUR STARS!

OH, I WAS ASKING FOR...

OH, IT WAS AWE-SOME?

Yes!

... *OTTER OF DESTINY* ...

IT'S THE 008 SPIN-OFF...

OH, IT'S NOT A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.

?!

OH, IT WAS TERR-IBLE.

...BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE PREVIOUS ONE, IT WON'T MAKE SENSE.

?!

AH, HELLO. DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

AND IT'S TRUE THAT BUDDHA AND I HAVE SOME SUBTLE DIFFERENCES IN OUR SENSE OF HUMOR...

I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT A RECENT MOVIE...

...AVERAGE OF ALL ELEVEN REVIEWS...

Aw, the otter's cute.

It's better than the last one.

Good characters.

I don't like films with this color palette...

Ew, no.

The ending was a major stretch.

I barely even understood any of the story.

Sleepy.

...ELEVEN-FACED KANNON-SAN'S...

WEEKLY RANKING

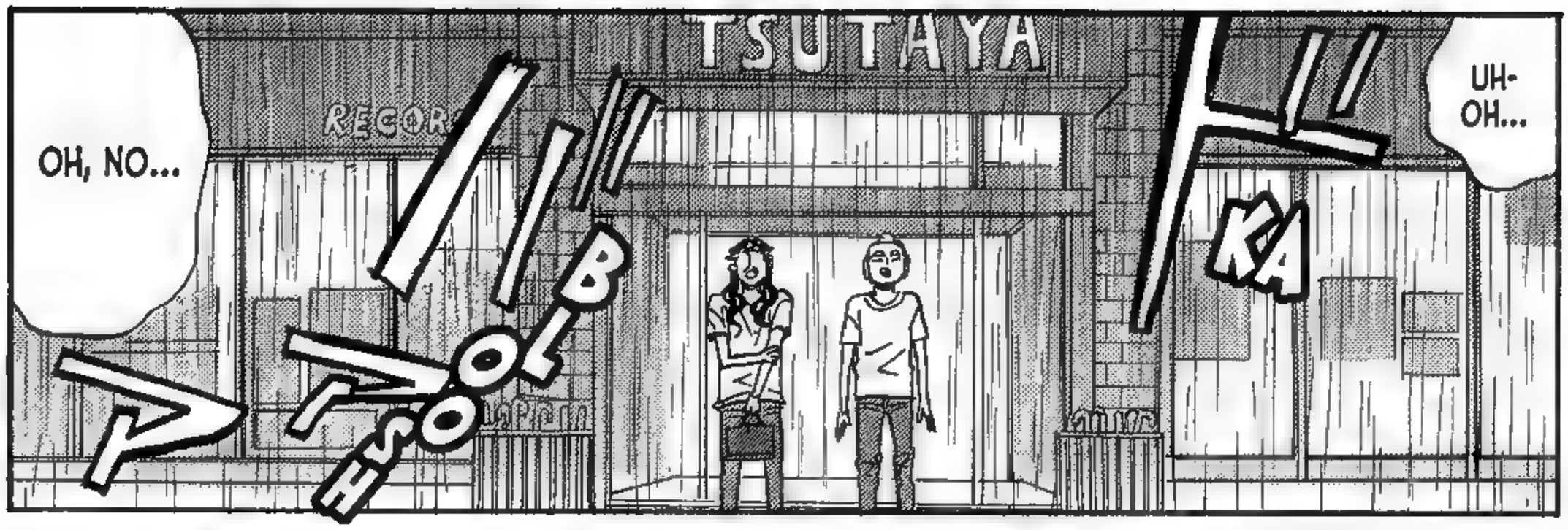
OH, AND ONE OF THEM ALWAYS SAYS "IT'S AN *EVA* RIPOFF," NO MATTER WHAT MOVIE IT IS...

SOME OF THE FACES REQUIRE ROMANTIC ELEMENTS TO BE INTERESTED.

SOME FACES LIKE CLASSIC TROPES, OTHERS PREFER AMBIENCE.

OKAY, YOU WIN. THAT'S GOT TO BE THE TOP REVIEWER IN ALL OF THE HEAVENS!

BUT KANNON-SAN TELLS ME THE AVERAGE OF THEIR OVERALL OPINIONS, WHICH IS A HUGE HELP.

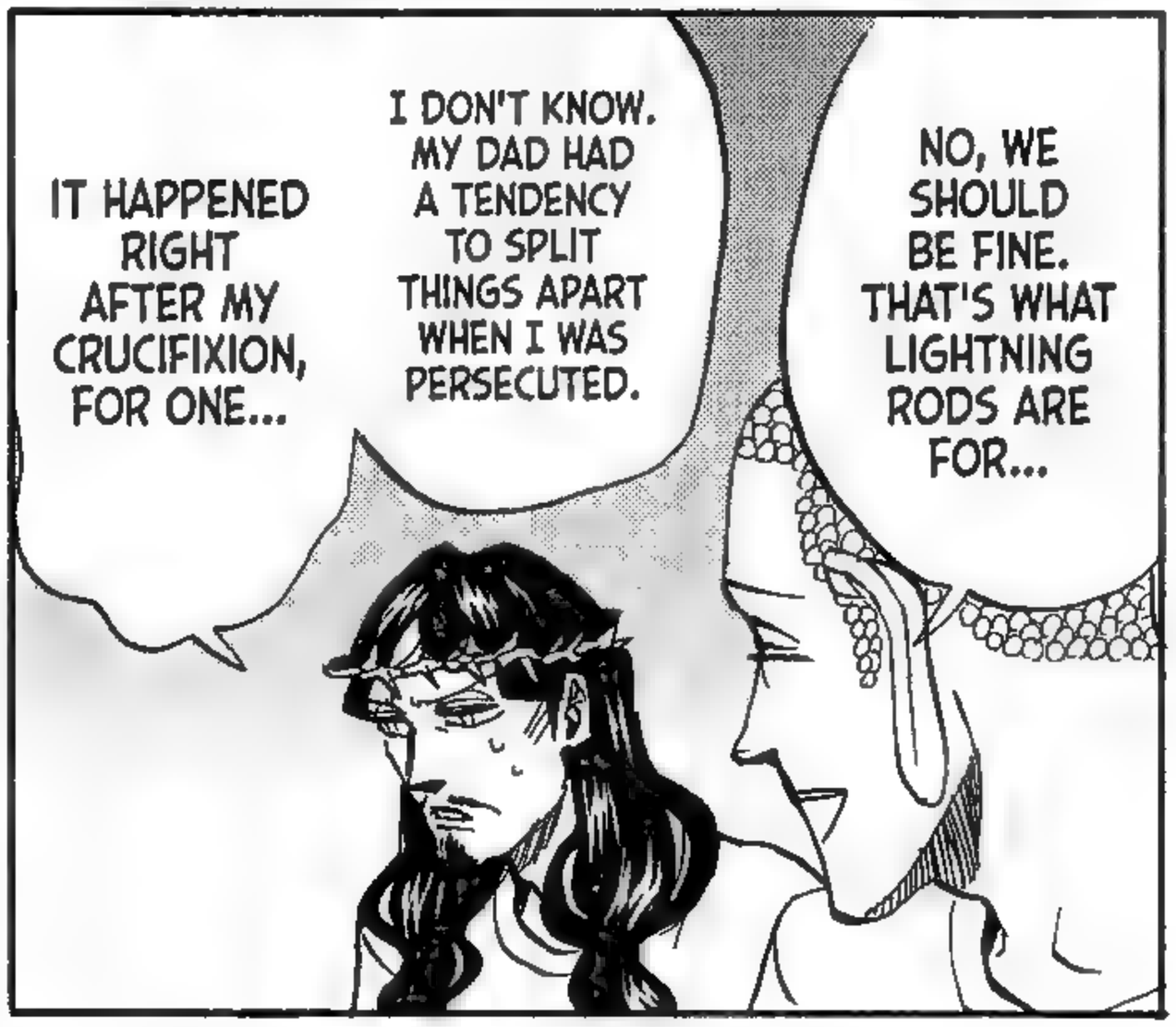

OH, NO...
TSUTAYA
RECOR
UH-OH...
KA
KA
TSUTAYA

THIS MAKES ME WORRIED THAT MAYBE DAD REALLY *IS* CLEANING HOUSE AGAIN...
YES...
IT'S LIKE A WATERFALL OUT HERE...

BUT TSUTAYA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO PERSECUTE YOU, DID THEY?
WELL, I WAS JUST E-MAILING DAD YESTERDAY, TELLING HIM ABOUT TSUTAYA...

HE SPLIT THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE THAT PERSECUTED ME.
I'D HATE FOR IT TO HAPPEN TO TSUTAYA, TOO...
BUT...

THAT WAS CLOSE! DO YOU THINK IT'LL HIT US?!
AH! LIGHTNING, TOO!
STAR


IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER MY CRUCIFIXION, FOR ONE...
I DON'T KNOW. MY DAD HAD A TENDENCY TO SPLIT THINGS APART WHEN I WAS PERSECUTED.
NO, WE SHOULD BE FINE. THAT'S WHAT LIGHTNING RODS ARE FOR...

YOUR DAD WOULD BE A REAL OVERBEARING PARENT IF HE STRUCK A DVD RENTAL STORE WITH LIGHTNING OVER SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*

Is Satan testing me?!

Not again!!

L O S T

IT'S LIKE I'M FIGHTING SOME INVISIBLE ENEMY!

THAT EVERY TIME I GO, THE VERY LAST DISC OF *LOST* HAS BEEN RENTED OUT...

LET'S SEE, WHERE'S MY UMBRELLA...?

YEAH. IT'LL ONLY GET WORSE, I BET.

3

WE MIGHT AS WELL SUCK IT UP AND GO, JESUS.

ANYWAY, THERE'S NO USE JUST WAITING HERE...

"!!" BWOM

WHAT IF WE GET A REALLY QUIRKY ONE SO THAT IT STANDS OUT FROM THE PACK?

I HEAR IT'S BAD LUCK NOT TO HAVE A PROPER UMBRELLA.

GLARM

HA HA, DO YOU BELIEVE IN FORTUNES NOW?

EVERYONE HAS THE SAME PLASTIC UMBRELLA! I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE IS MINE.

THAT'S TRUE. MAYBE WE SHOULD BUY A COLORFUL ONE TO TELL IT APART.

AHH, YOU'RE RIGHT!! IT'S MUCALINDA-KUN!!

KRRR?

TRUST ME... THE ONE YOU'VE GOT IS ALREADY A ONE-OF-A-KIND.

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT AN UMBRELLA TODAY, BUDDHA. ASK HIM TO LEAVE...

A SNAKE ...

ZOOP

WHEN DID YOU HIDE IN THAT UMBRELLA STAND?!

I'M SO USED TO YOU DOING THIS BEFORE I ESCAPED SAMSARA THAT I JUST PICKED YOU UP WITHOUT THINKING!

WHAT? EVEN MUCALINDA-KUN CAN'T HANDLE THIS GUST...

AAAAA

BOOF

JESUS, ARE YOU OKAY?!

POOF

?!

WHOOSH

MUCALINDA-KUN'S NOT AFRAID OF A LITTLE WIND...

UM, ARE YOU SURE?!

I'm not a snake guy...

WHSH

AAAH!!

THIS STORM'S TOO STRONG FOR AN ORDINARY UMBRELLA.

THE PLASTIC JUST POOFED RIGHT OFF!

M-MY UM-BREL-LA!

LET'S USE MUCALINDA-KUN FOR TODAY, JESUS.

GASP

WAIT, HE JUST WENT "POOF", TOO...

...AND EVOLVED?

H-HE MOLTED...

しゃも

THOSE KIDS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE SEEING A NEW POKÉMON!

YEAH, BUT WE SHOULD HURRY HOME.

TH-THAT'S... SO... *COOL!!*

BY THE WAY, BUDDHA...

JESUS WAS DETER-MINED TO MEET UP OFF-LINE.

?!

IT'S UNDER THE NAME R-AMEN...

IN FACT, THEY RUN THEIR OWN REVIEW SITE.

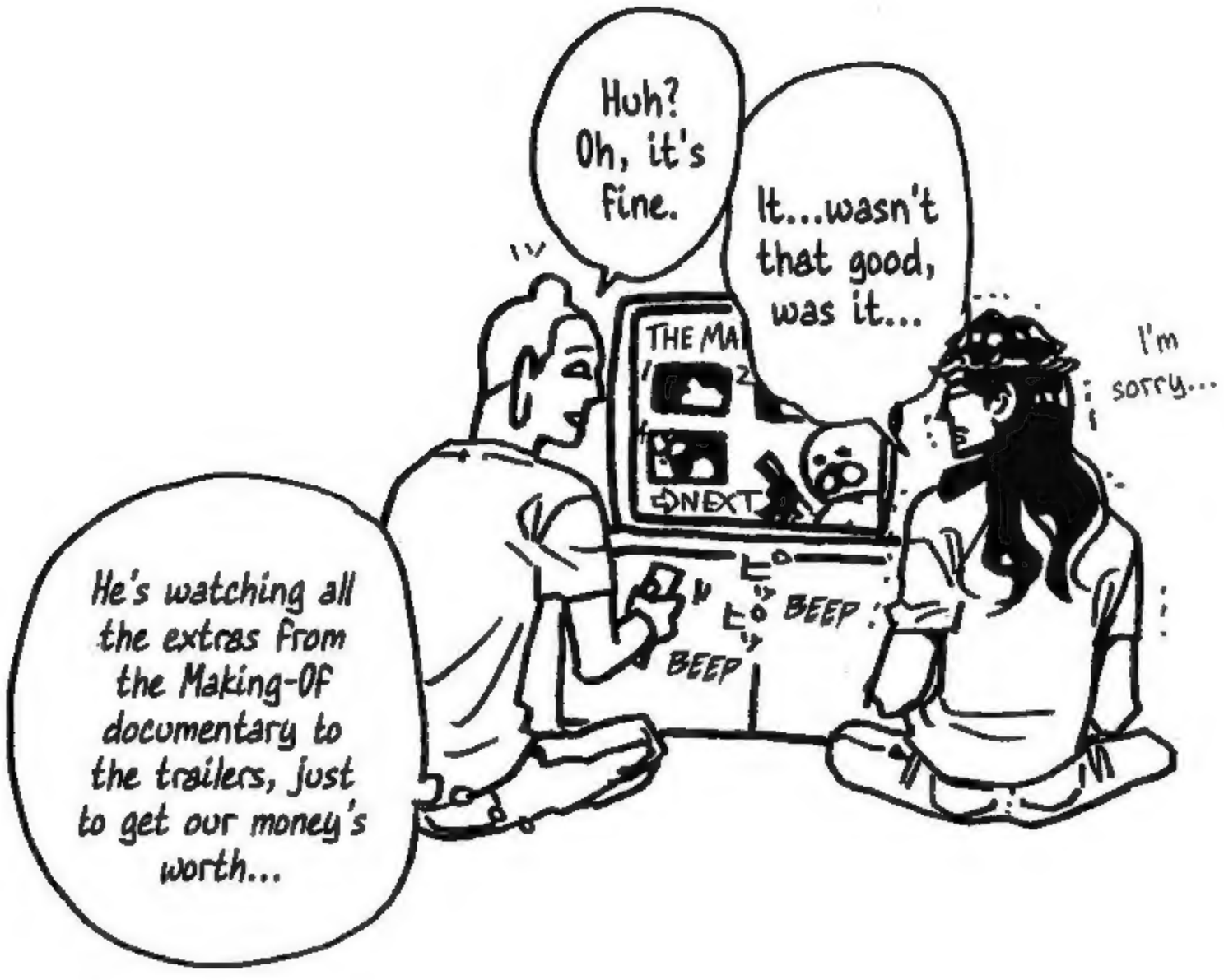
SURE THING.

Looks like Mucalinda-kun turns back when he dries out.

RUB

AS A REVIEW BLOGGER MYSELF, I RESPECT THAT LEVEL OF COMMIT-MENT...

...COULD YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THE ELEVEN-FACED KANNON-SAN YOU SPOKE TO ON THE PHONE?


He's watching all the extras from the Making-Of documentary to the trailers, just to get our money's worth...
Huh? Oh, it's fine.
It...wasn't that good, was it...
I'm sorry...
THE MA
NEXT
BEEP
BEEP

Saint Young Men 7

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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